

## DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 352 243

RC 018 902

TITLE The Public Mind: Views of Pennsylvania Citizens.  
Report No. 3.

INSTITUTION Mansfield Univ., PA.

PUB DATE May 91

NOTE 58p.

AVAILABLE FROM Rural Services Institute, Mansfield Univ., 209 Doane  
Center, Mansfield, PA 16933 (\$10).

PUB TYPE Reports - Research/Technical (143) -- Statistical  
Data (110)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC03 Plus Postage.

DESCRIPTORS Abortions; Budgeting; Educational Attitudes;  
Elementary Secondary Education; \*Political Attitudes;  
\*Public Education; \*Public Opinion; Rural Urban  
Differences; \*School Attitudes; \*State Government;  
State Surveys; Taxes

IDENTIFIERS \*Health Attitudes; \*Pennsylvania

## ABSTRACT

During February-March 1991, 1,518 randomly selected Pennsylvania adults with listed telephone numbers were surveyed on political, educational, and health issues. With regard to education, respondents: (1) strongly favored limiting class size to 15 students in grades K-3, and funding public education through the state income tax (not local taxes); (2) somewhat favored denying high school dropouts a driver's license until age 18; (3) somewhat opposed extending the school year beyond its present 180 days; and (4) split over corporal punishment in public schools and teachers' right to strike. On health issues, public opinion strongly favored testing sex criminals for AIDS, legalizing physician assistance to euthanasia, and setting a legal age for smoking. A large majority felt that abortion is a private matter between a woman and her doctor, but also favored parental or husband notification, a 24-hour waiting period, and mandatory counseling. Most respondents thought that the state should handle its budget problems by cutting spending rather than by raising taxes. Specific questions addressed taxes, possible cuts in services, and legalized gambling. In a test of socio-political awareness, Pennsylvanians underestimated the state population and overestimated the state's black and elderly populations; 85% knew the governor's name, but only 31% knew both state senators. Data tables detail responses by age, sex, regional and rural/urban residence, educational attainment, political affiliation, and socio-political awareness score. (SV)

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ED352243

# THE PUBLIC MIND

VIEWS OF PENNSYLVANIA CITIZENS

TAXES

EDUCATION

ABORTION

SMOKING

EUTHANASIA

FETAL PROTECTION

SOCIAL-POLITICAL AWARENESS

MANSFIELD  
UNIVERSITY RURAL  
SERVICES

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May 1991

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# THE RURAL SERVICES INSTITUTE

## BACKGROUND

The Rural Services Institute (RSI) was established in 1984 as the applied research and community service arm of Mansfield University within the Division of Community Services and Continuing Education.

## PURPOSE

Our purpose is to share the resources of the university with the regional rural community. We encourage and assist students, faculty, and staff to meet the identified needs of business and industry, area students, local governments, and social service agencies.

## MISSION

Our mission is to engage in community service on behalf of the university and to be the applied research arm of Mansfield University.

### How We Will Accomplish Our Mission

In carrying out our mission we will:

- \*strive for excellence in all our efforts;
- \*apply the resources of the university to help solve community problems;
- \*be committed to providing leadership for the economic revitalization and development of the region;
- \*be committed to increasing the problem solving capacity of the region;
- \*work at raising people's expectation levels and their self esteem;
- \*assume the role of pointing out problems to the community;
- \*act as a facilitator in helping the community reach solutions to their identified problems;
- \*do applied research and pilot projects on potential solutions to these problems;
- \*strive to enhance the image of Mansfield University;
- \*seek to attain the goals set by the State System of Higher Education and Mansfield University.

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## 3rd Annual RSI SURVEY

May, 1991

### Study Directors

Gale P. Largey, Ph.D.  
Richard N. Feil, Ph.D.  
Marilyn A. Bok, M.P.A.

### Research Group

Daniel T. Banks	Noel M. Kuznicki
Steven C. Beck	Tim S. Lay
Patrick J. Beckwith	Duane MacDonald
Teresa Boll	Carla R. Mann
William Cammon	Marsha Matheson
Jon Dressler	Matthew W. Mattie
Chris Eberhardt	Raymond McClary
Heather E. Emerich	Mike P. McSherry
Peter Farrell	Krista Newberry
Christine Fenner	Dianna Pannebraker
Rick Fetzer	Sherry A. Pauls
Brenda Fullmer	Mary E. Parker
Jennifer Grauer	Susan Polachek
Gerald Hardy	Martha E. Rogers
Gregory T. Holmes	Brett Schantz
Brian R. Hugo	Deborah L. Senka
Renee Imperiale	John Shilling
Eric J. Inscho	Shelley Stiger
Julle Jablonski	Tammy S. Strausser
Matt Janelli	Gina R. Termon
Aaron Johns	Manuel P. Vidal
Susan L. Kahle	Stan Wadas
Chris J. Kelly	Kathleen L. White
Tom Kuhn	

### Typesetting/Layout

Sheran Lawton

### Printing

James E. Treat  
Dan Davis  
Larry Sherman

### Typist

Barbara Nichols

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## EDUCATION

- **Pennsylvanians prefer the income tax, rather than the property tax, as the primary source of funding for public education**

By more than a 2-to-1 margin (57% v. 24%, 19% don't know), Pennsylvanians feel that the costs of public education should be covered mostly through the state income tax rather than a local property tax. Support for the position is evident among both Democrats(59%) and Republicans(52%), regardless of region, age, educational level, or the sex of the respondents. In expressing their views, some respondents felt that equity of educational opportunity could be more easily attained if the financing of schools was based primarily upon the state income tax. Others expressed a concern that if the state bears the cost it will exert too much control over local schools. As one respondent put it: "If the state pays, the state says."

**Restrictions on Dropouts.** Since the first so-called "No Pass/No Drive" law was passed in West Virginia in 1988, at least 10 states have attempted to encourage students to stay in school by denying dropouts the opportunity to have a driver's license until the age of eighteen. Whether or not such legislation actually reduces the number of dropouts is not yet certain, but by a narrow margin (50%, favor; 45%, oppose) Pennsylvanians are willing to try the idea. Support is strongest in Western Pennsylvania(57%), and much more so among older adults. For example, 59% of the elderly versus only 40% of young adults support the idea.

**Lengthening the School Year.** Pennsylvania is an average state in terms of the length of its school year (180 days) when compared to other states. When compared to other industrialized nations the U.S. is well-below average. The school year is 240 days in Japan, and 210 in Germany.

Despite calls by educational leaders to extend the school year, Pennsylvanians are not yet willing to support the idea (53%, oppose; 41%, favor). Opposition is strongest among ruralites(65%), persons with less than a high school education(64%), and female Democrats (37%). Some opponents suggested that more attention should be given to quality, rather than quantity of time in school. Some were concerned about the costs. In rural areas there was some concern about how farming tasks would be met if the school year was extended.

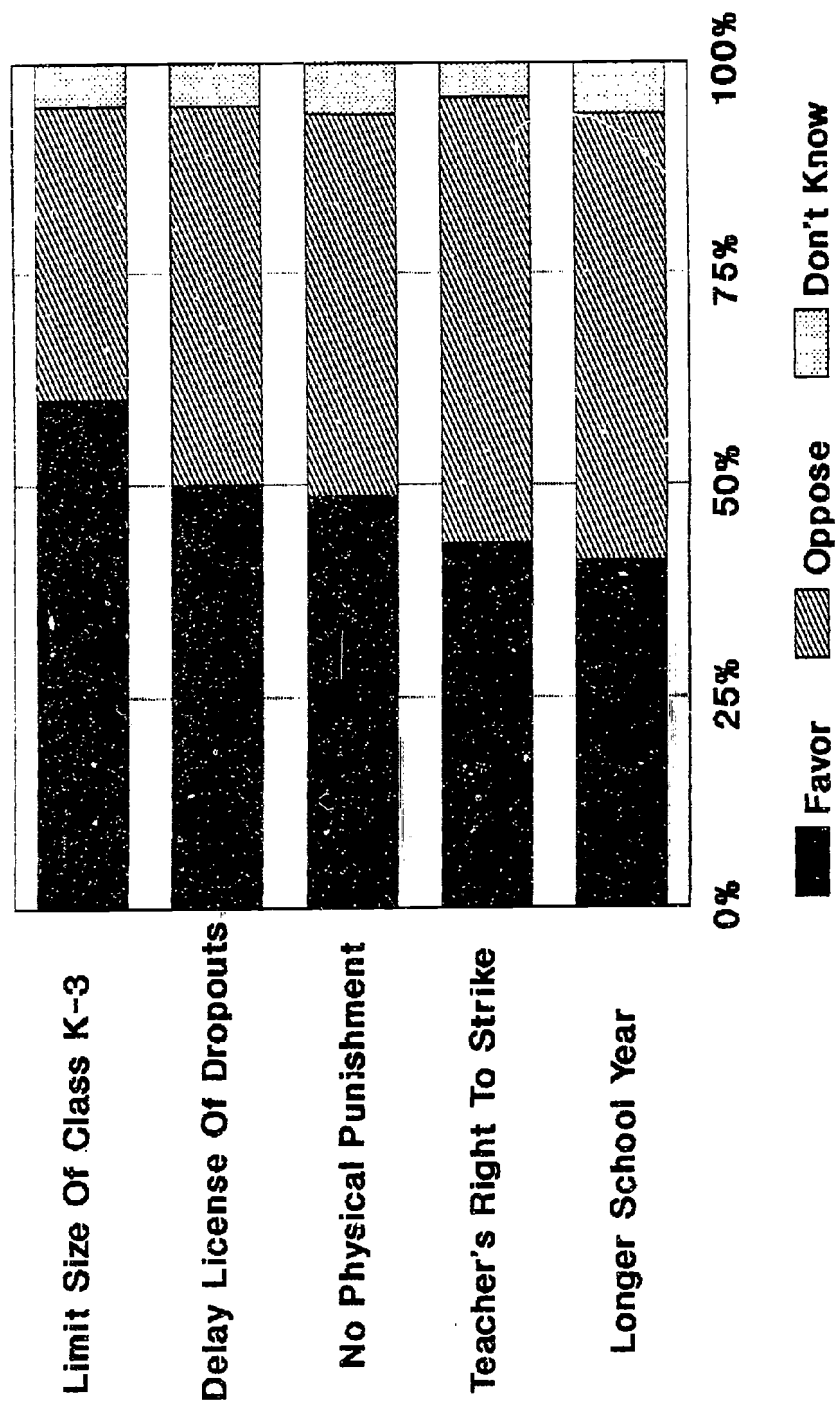
**Corporal Punishment in Public Schools.** The National Education Association, the American Medical Association, the American Bar Association, the National PTA, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Pennsylvania State Education Association, the Pennsylvania School Board Association, and various other groups have supported proposed legislation to ban corporal punishment in public schools. Nonetheless, public sentiment in Pennsylvania is almost evenly split on the idea: 48%, favor; 45%, oppose; 6%, don't know. Proponents of a ban are more likely to be young adults. Sex and political affiliation are not linked to opinion on the issue.

**Class Size.** There is general(60%) public support for a proposal to limit the size of public school classes, K through third grade, to fifteen students. Both male and female Democrats(65%), and female Republicans rather strongly support(62%) the proposal, but that support wanes among male Republicans (44%). Currently, the proposal is being strongly advocated for by the Pennsylvania State Education Association.

**Restrictions on Teacher Strikes.** Pennsylvanians are split on the question of whether teachers should or should not be allowed to strike. Young adults, Democrats, and persons who are college-educated are somewhat more likely to support the right to strike. In one woman's words: "If baseball players can strike, so can teachers!" Some of the respondents who wanted to ban teacher strikes suggested the use of binding arbitration as a means of settling disputes.



**Figure 1. PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR PROPOSALS RELATING  
TO EDUCATION IN PENNSYLVANIA**



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University 1991

## EDUCATION: Delaying a Dropout's Drivers License

**Question:** Some states do not permit a high school dropout to obtain a driver's license until the age of 18. Would you favor or oppose having such a law in Pennsylvania?

RESPONSES	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide .....	50%	45	5	1516
Rural/Urban*				
Rural .....	50%	45	5	326
Urban .....	50%	45	5	1190
Region*				
Northwest .....	55%	40	5	157
Southwest .....	58%	38	4	399
Central .....	47%	48	6	314
Northeast .....	53%	44	3	102
Southeast .....	44%	50	6	544
Age				
18 to 34 year olds .....	40%	56	4	451
35-49 .....	50%	45	5	465
50-64 .....	57%	38	5	304
65 or older .....	59%	32	9	271
Sex				
Female .....	51%	43	5	799
Male .....	49%	47	5	709
Educational Level				
Less than High School .....	47%	44	9	196
High School Graduate .....	52%	44	4	828
College Graduate .....	48%	47	5	473
Political Affiliation				
Republican .....	52%	43	5	515
Democrat .....	53%	43	4	565
Independent/Other .....	44%	51	5	82
None .....	43%	50	6	327
Source of Information				
Television .....	51%	43	6	756
Newspaper .....	52%	44	4	482
Radio .....	41%	51	8	63
Magazine .....	53%	44	3	34
Other .....	39%	56	5	96
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1 .....	51%	44	6	511
2-3 .....	52%	44	5	715
4-6 .....	45%	50	5	290

\* See Appendices for explanation.

## EDUCATION: Extending the School Year

**Question:** Currently, the school year in Pennsylvania is 180 days. Do you favor or oppose having more days in the school year?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide .....	41%	53	6	1517
Rural/Urban*				
Rural .....	29%	65	6	327
Urban .....	44%	50	6	1190
Region*				
Northwest .....	38%	60	3	157
Southwest .....	35%	59	6	399
Central .....	39%	54	7	315
Northeast .....	32%	62	6	101
Southeast .....	48%	45	7	545
Age				
18 to 34 year olds .....	35%	60	5	452
35-49 .....	40%	53	6	466
50-64 .....	49%	45	6	303
65 or older .....	41%	50	9	271
Sex				
Female .....	37%	57	6	800
Male .....	44%	49	6	709
Educational Level				
Less than High School .....	26%	64	10	196
High School Graduate .....	40%	56	5	830
College Graduate .....	48%	44	8	472
Political Affiliation				
Republican .....	46%	47	8	515
Democrat .....	40%	55	6	565
Independent/Other .....	40%	49	11	82
None .....	33%	62	5	328
Source of Information				
Television .....	37%	57	6	756
Newspaper .....	43%	50	7	483
Radio .....	43%	52	5	63
Magazine .....	59%	41	0	34
Other .....	43%	48	9	96
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1 .....	31%	64	5	512
2-3 .....	44%	50	6	716
4-6 .....	47%	43	10	289

\*See Appendices for explanation.



## EDUCATION: Corporal Punishment of Students

*Question:* Some people feel that there should be a law to stop paddling and other forms of physical punishment in public schools. Would you favor or oppose such a law?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide .....	48%	45	6	1512
Rural/Urban*				
Rural .....	42%	53	6	326
Urban .....	50%	43	7	1186
Region*				
Northwest .....	45%	49	6	156
Southwest .....	45%	49	6	397
Central .....	44%	50	5	315
Northeast .....	45%	52	3	102
Southeast .....	55%	38	8	542
Age				
18 to 34 year olds .....	58%	38	4	451
35-49 .....	46%	48	6	464
50-64 .....	44%	47	9	304
65 or older .....	41%	51	9	271
Sex				
Female .....	50%	43	7	795
Male .....	47%	48	6	709
Educational Level				
Less than High School .....	40%	53	7	196
High School Graduate .....	49%	44	7	826
College Graduate .....	51%	44	5	427
Political Affiliation				
Republican .....	48%	45	7	515
Democrat .....	48%	46	6	563
Independent/Other .....	50%	46	4	82
None .....	51%	44	6	325
Source of Information				
Television .....	49%	45	6	754
Newspaper .....	46%	47	7	482
Radio .....	49%	41	10	63
Magazine .....	50%	50	0	34
Other .....	53%	39	8	96
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1 .....	49%	43	8	508
2-3 .....	46%	49	6	714
4-6 .....	52%	42	6	290

\* See Appendices for explanation.

## EDUCATION: Limits on Class Size

**Question:** A law has been proposed to limit the size of public school classes, in kindergarten thru third grade, to 15 students. Would you favor or oppose such a law?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide .....	60%	35	5	1510
Rural/Urban*				
Rural .....	57%	38	6	324
Urban .....	60%	35	5	1186
Region*				
Northwest .....	58%	37	5	155
Southwest .....	58%	38	4	398
Central .....	60%	34	6	314
Northeast .....	65%	31	4	101
Southeast .....	60%	34	6	542
Age				
18 to 34 year olds .....	63%	32	5	450
35-49 .....	63%	33	4	462
50-64 .....	51%	44	5	304
65 or older .....	57%	34	8	270
Sex				
Female .....	65%	31	4	797
Male .....	54%	40	6	705
Educational Level				
Less than High School .....	56%	37	7	195
High School Graduate .....	60%	36	5	825
College Graduate .....	61%	34	5	472
Political Affiliation				
Republican .....	53%	42	5	514
Democrat .....	65%	31	4	563
Independent/Other .....	48%	42	11	82
None .....	64%	31	5	324
Source of Information				
Television .....	62%	33	5	753
Newspaper .....	58%	37	5	481
Radio .....	62%	32	6	63
Magazine .....	59%	29	12	34
Other .....	54%	40	6	96
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1 .....	65%	30	5	508
2-3 .....	58%	36	6	713
4-6 .....	53%	43	4	289

\*See Appendices for explanation.

## EDUCATION: Teachers' Right to Strike

**Question:** Currently, according to Pennsylvania law, teachers have the right to strike. Do you think that teachers should have the right to strike by law?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide .....	43%	53	4	1511
Rural/Urban*				
Rural .....	40%	56	5	327
Urban .....	44%	52	5	1184
Region*				
Northwest .....	42%	55	4	156
Southwest .....	41%	56	4	397
Central .....	43%	53	5	315
Northeast .....	39%	58	3	101
Southeast .....	46%	49	6	542
Age				
18 to 34 year olds .....	51%	46	3	450
35-49 .....	48%	47	4	464
50-64 .....	33%	62	5	304
65 or older .....	32%	63	5	269
Sex				
Female .....	40%	56	5	796
Male .....	47%	49	4	707
Educational Level				
Less than High School .....	33%	61	6	195
High School Graduate .....	42%	55	4	826
College Graduate .....	50%	45	5	472
Political Affiliation				
Republican .....	33%	62	5	513
Democrat .....	50%	46	4	563
Independent/Other .....	48%	45	7	82
None .....	45%	51	4	326
Source of Information				
Television .....	42%	53	5	754
Newspaper .....	43%	54	4	481
Radio .....	48%	44	8	63
Magazine .....	65%	29	6	34
Other .....	41%	51	8	96
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1 .....	43%	53	5	508
2-3 .....	41%	55	4	713
4-6 .....	48%	47	5	290

\* See Appendices for explanation.

## EDUCATION: Funding Schools

**Question:** Do you feel that public education in Pennsylvania should be paid for mostly by local property taxes or by the state income tax?

RESPONSES:	Local Property	State Income	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide .....	24%	57	19	1489
Rural/Urban*				
Rural .....	24%	56	20	325
Urban .....	24%	57	19	1164
Region*				
Northwest .....	23%	55	22	153
Southwest .....	23%	58	19	394
Central .....	24%	59	18	313
Northeast .....	25%	58	17	101
Southeast .....	25%	55	21	528
Age				
18 to 34 year olds .....	27%	58	15	445
35-49 .....	27%	58	16	454
50-64 .....	23%	55	22	299
65 or older .....	17%	56	27	266
Sex				
Female .....	22%	55	23	787
Male .....	26%	59	15	694
Educational Level				
Less than High School .....	15%	56	28	145
High School Graduate .....	24%	57	18	810
College Graduate .....	28%	56	16	465
Political Affiliation				
Republican .....	30%	52	18	510
Democrat .....	21%	59	20	552
Independent/Other .....	24%	53	23	78
None .....	21%	61	18	322
Source of Information				
Television .....	24%	57	19	745
Newspaper .....	25%	58	17	473
Radio .....	22%	59	19	63
Magazine .....	36%	49	15	33
Other .....	22%	46	32	94
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1 .....	22%	57	22	503
2-3 .....	24%	57	19	705
4-6 .....	30%	55	15	281

\* See Appendices for explanation.

## HEALTH ISSUES

- Pennsylvanians strongly support mandatory AIDS testing of rapists, legalization of physician-assisted euthanasia, a legal age for smoking, a ban on fetal protection policies, and Pennsylvania restrictions on abortion.

**Testing Sex Criminals for AIDS.** Currently in Pennsylvania, if a woman is raped or a child is sexually abused, the victims cannot legally demand that the criminal be tested for AIDS and that the results be given to the victim. The basic argument against such mandatory testing is that it would erode confidentiality in AIDS testing, and undermine civil liberties. It is pointed out that even if the criminal has AIDS, one still cannot be certain that the criminal actually infected the victim; thus, criminals may become victims of unwarranted stigmatization and discrimination. Proponents of mandatory testing argue that victims have an immediate right to know if they have been doubly victimized. By a clear majority(93%), Pennsylvanians favor mandatory AIDS testing of sex criminals.

**Legalization of Physician-Assisted Euthanasia.** In March 1990, there was a controversial report in *The New England Journal of Medicine* by a physician who provided a terminally ill patient with a lethal prescription of barbiturates to hasten her death. The case underscored that the practice of euthanasia may emerge as one of the most hotly debated medical-ethical issues of the 90's. In this regard, 67% of Pennsylvanians feel that such actions should be legal if the patient and family make a request. Support for legalization of the practice is found among all age groups, but more so among young adults(77%) than the elderly(58%). There were also regional differences of opinion: highest in the Southwest(71%), lowest in the Northwest(58%).

**Legal Age for Smoking.** Currently, the legal age of drinking alcoholic beverages in Pennsylvania is 21. In view of the rising concern about the effects of tobacco, it has been proposed that there also should be a legal age for smoking. By a 2-to-1 margin, Pennsylvanians support the proposal, but their opinion is split on whether the legal age should be 18 or 21. Public sentiment for having a legal age is strongest among young adults. In one respondent's words: "The legal age for smoking should be never."

**Abortion.** In 1989, a random sample of Pennsylvanians were asked: "Please tell me if you agree or disagree with the following statement: Abortion is a private issue between a woman, her family, and her doctor. The government should not be involved." At the time, 76% agreed. Replicating that question, the current survey found similar opinion: 78% agreed. Still, despite a seemingly implicit support of the abortion rights position, respondents also agreed with the major state government restrictions that were enacted in 1989: 78% agree that parents must be notified before a teenage daughter can have an abortion; 76% agree that a husband must be informed before his wife has an abortion; 81% agree that there must be a 24-hour waiting period before a woman has an abortion unless there's an emergency; and, 78% agree that a woman must receive counselling before she undergoes an abortion.

Support for abortion restrictions is generally stronger among males than females, and it is directly related to age. Except in Southeastern Pennsylvania, there is very little regional opposition to the current restrictions, but even in that region only about 20-25% disagree with the current law. Perhaps indicative of public discontent over the abortion debate, a male Republican remarked: "Abortion is a very delicate subject, but I don't think the government is sincere enough to handle it."

**Fetal Protection Policies.** In March 1991, the Supreme Court ruled that employers may not adopt "fetal protection" policies that bar potentially child-bearing women from jobs in which they would be exposed to chemicals that might cause birth defects. By a 2-to-1 margin, Pennsylvanians agree with that decision. Regardless of whether the perceived risk is viewed as "slight" or "significant," Pennsylvanians do not feel that an employer has the right to refuse to hire or the right to lay off a woman on the grounds of fetal protection. Instead, Pennsylvanians generally feel that the decision should be left to the woman. Support for the woman's right is particularly evident among the college-educated, Democrats, and respondents under the age of 65.

## HEALTH ISSUES: Testing Sex Criminals for AIDS

**Question:** Would you favor or oppose a law requiring that anyone convicted of a sex crime be tested for AIDS?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide .....	93%	5	2	1513
Rural/Urban*				
Rural .....	94%	4	2	327
Urban .....	93%	6	1	1186
Region*				
Northwest .....	93%	6	1	156
Southwest .....	92%	6	2	397
Central .....	95%	4	2	315
Northeast .....	94%	5	1	102
Southeast .....	92%	6	2	543
Age				
18 to 34 year olds .....	95%	5	0	451
35-49 .....	93%	6	1	464
50-64 .....	92%	4	3	304
65 or older .....	92%	6	3	270
Sex				
Female .....	95%	4	2	797
Male .....	91%	7	1	708
Educational Level				
Less than High School .....	92%	7	1	196
High School Graduate .....	95%	3	2	827
College Graduate .....	89%	9	2	472
Political Affiliation				
Republican .....	94%	5	1	515
Democrat .....	92%	6	2	563
Independent/Other .....	87%	11	2	82
None .....	94%	5	1	327
Source of Information				
Television .....	94%	5	1	756
Newspaper .....	92%	6	2	481
Radio .....	94%	6	0	63
Magazine .....	91%	9	0	34
Other .....	92%	6	2	95
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1 .....	95%	4	1	510
2-3 .....	93%	6	2	715
4-6 .....	90%	8	2	288

\* See Appendices for explanation.



## HEALTH ISSUES: EUTHANASIA — Legalization of Physician Assistance

**Question:** When a person has a disease that cannot be cured, do you think doctors should be allowed by law to end the patient's life by some painless means if the patient and his family request it?

RESPONSES:	Yes	No	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide .....	67%	26	8	1509
Rural/Urban*				
Rural .....	63%	30	7	327
Urban .....	68%	25	8	1182
Region*				
Northwest .....	58%	31	10	156
Southwest .....	71%	21	8	396
Central .....	62%	30	9	314
Northeast .....	68%	24	8	101
Southeast .....	69%	26	6	542
Age				
18 to 34 year olds .....	77%	20	4	450
35-49 .....	66%	27	7	465
50-64 .....	62%	28	10	303
65 or older .....	58%	30	13	268
Sex				
Female .....	66%	27	7	794
Male .....	68%	25	8	707
Educational Level				
Less than High School .....	67%	23	10	196
High School Graduate .....	66%	27	7	824
College Graduate .....	69%	24	7	473
Political Affiliation				
Republican .....	64%	26	10	516
Democrat .....	66%	28	7	562
Independent/Other .....	70%	25	5	81
None .....	72%	22	6	325
Source of Information				
Television .....	68%	25	7	754
Newspaper .....	67%	27	7	480
Radio .....	59%	29	13	63
Magazine .....	56%	32	12	34
Other .....	66%	27	7	96
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1 .....	69%	23	8	502
2-3 .....	65%	27	8	712
4-6 .....	68%	26	6	290

\* See Appendices for explanation.

## HEALTH ISSUES: SMOKING — Setting A Legal Age

**Question:** Currently, in Pennsylvania, there is a legal age for drinking. Would you favor or oppose having a legal age for smoking?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide .....	64%	31	5	1500
Rural/Urban*				
Rural .....	67%	28	6	324
Urban .....	63%	32	5	1176
Region*				
Northwest .....	66%	29	5	156
Southwest .....	63%	31	6	394
Central .....	67%	28	5	310
Northeast .....	58%	38	4	101
Southeast .....	63%	31	6	539
Age				
18 to 34 year olds .....	69%	29	2	451
35-49 .....	64%	31	5	461
50-64 .....	60%	33	7	301
65 or older .....	60%	32	8	266
Sex				
Female .....	64%	30	5	789
Male .....	64%	31	5	703
Educational Level				
Less than High School .....	60%	34	7	193
High School Graduate .....	64%	31	5	822
College Graduate .....	65%	30	5	469
Political Affiliation				
Republican .....	67%	29	4	511
Democrat .....	62%	31	7	557
Independent/Other .....	57%	41	3	81
None .....	64%	31	5	327
Source of Information				
Television .....	64%	30	6	748
Newspaper .....	66%	30	4	482
Radio .....	63%	36	2	62
Magazine .....	68%	32	0	34
Other .....	62%	30	9	94
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1 .....	67%	28	5	504
2-3 .....	64%	30	6	704
4-6 .....	58%	38	5	289

\* See Appendices for explanation.

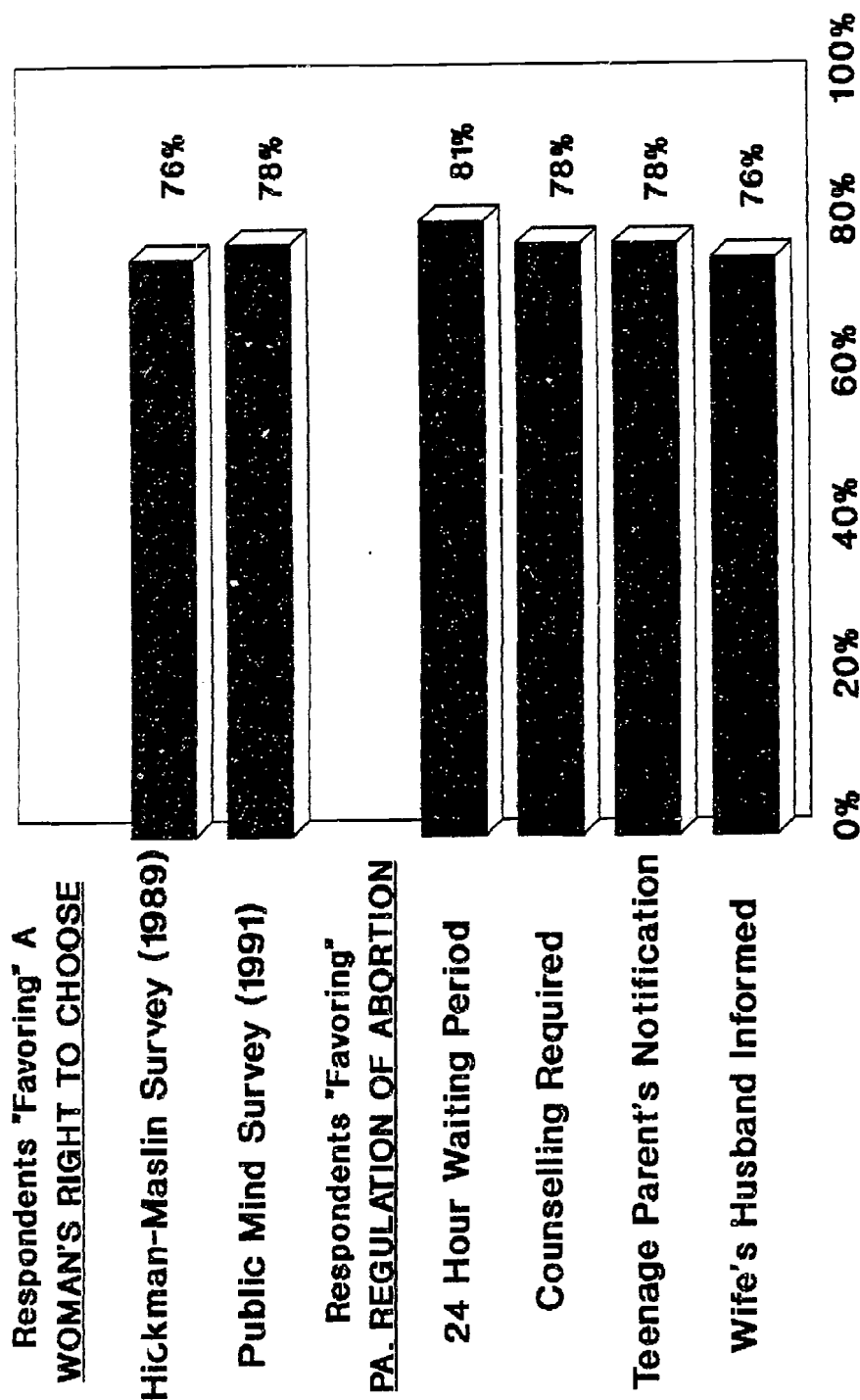
## HEALTH ISSUES: ABORTION — Private vs Governmental Issue

**Question:** Please tell me if you agree or disagree with the following statement: Abortion is a private issue between a woman, her family, and her doctor. The government should not be involved.

RESPONSES:	Agree	Disagree	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide .....	78%	18	4	1501
Rural/Urban*				
Rural .....	74%	21	5	323
Urban .....	79%	17	4	1178
Region*				
Northwest .....	72%	23	5	155
Southwest .....	79%	18	3	396
Central .....	73%	22	5	312
Northeast .....	84%	15	1	100
Southeast .....	80%	15	5	538
Age				
18 to 34 year olds .....	77%	20	3	447
35-49 .....	78%	19	4	460
50-64 .....	78%	17	5	303
65 or older .....	78%	15	7	269
Sex				
Female .....	78%	17	5	791
Male .....	78%	19	3	702
Educational Level				
Less than High School .....	75%	19	6	194
High School Graduate .....	80%	16	4	822
College Graduate .....	76%	21	3	469
Political Affiliation				
Republican .....	75%	20	5	509
Democrat .....	79%	18	3	561
Independent/Other .....	78%	17	5	81
None .....	80%	16	4	326
Source of Information				
Television .....	76%	19	5	751
Newspaper .....	81%	16	3	482
Radio .....	76%	19	5	62
Magazine .....	77%	24	0	34
Other .....	76%	19	4	93
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1 .....	78%	17	5	504
2-3 .....	78%	17	5	709
4-6 .....	76%	21	2	288

\* See Appendices for explanation.

**Figure 2. VIEWS ON ABORTION**



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University 1991

## HEALTH ISSUES: ABORTION — Notification of Parents

*Question:* Would you agree or disagree with the following legal requirement: that parents must be notified before their teenage daughter can have an abortion?

RESPONSES:	Agree	Disagree	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide .....	78%	19	4	1494
Rural/Urban*				
Rural .....	84%	13	3	322
Urban .....	76%	20	4	1177
Region*				
Northwest .....	81%	15	4	155
Southwest .....	83%	15	3	396
Central .....	79%	18	3	310
Northeast .....	83%	14	3	102
Southeast .....	71%	24	5	536
Age				
18 to 34 year olds .....	74%	24	2	447
35-49 .....	76%	20	4	459
50-64 .....	81%	14	5	302
65 or older .....	83%	13	4	269
Sex				
Female .....	75%	20	5	788
Male .....	81%	17	2	703
Educational Level				
Less than High School .....	87%	10	3	194
High School Graduate .....	83%	14	3	819
College Graduate .....	65%	30	5	470
Political Affiliation				
Republican .....	79%	17	4	508
Democrat .....	75%	22	3	562
Independent/Other .....	63%	29	9	80
None .....	83%	14	3	326
Source of Information				
Television .....	79%	17	4	751
Newspaper .....	78%	19	3	479
Radio .....	71%	28	2	61
Magazine .....	62%	35	3	34
Other .....	77%	16	7	95
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1 .....	81%	16	4	504
2-3 .....	79%	17	4	709
4-6 .....	70%	28	3	286

\* See Appendices for explanation.

## HEALTH ISSUES: ABORTION — Informing the Husband

**Question:** Do you agree or disagree with the following legal requirement: that a husband must be *informed* before his wife has an abortion?

RESPONSES:	Agree	Disagree	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide .....	76%	20	3	1497
Rural/Urban*				
Rural .....	83%	14	3	322
Urban .....	75%	22	3	1175
Region*				
Northwest .....	83%	13	4	155
Southwest .....	81%	18	2	395
Central .....	76%	21	3	311
Northeast .....	78%	19	3	99
Southeast .....	72%	24	5	537
Age				
18 to 34 year olds .....	80%	19	2	447
35-49 .....	71%	25	4	460
50-64 .....	78%	17	5	301
65 or older .....	79%	17	4	267
Sex				
Female .....	71%	25	4	788
Male .....	83%	15	3	702
Educational Level				
Less than High School .....	88%	10	2	194
High School Graduate .....	80%	17	4	817
College Graduate .....	66%	30	3	470
Political Affiliation				
Republican .....	77%	19	4	506
Democrat .....	72%	25	3	561
Independent/Other .....	64%	33	3	81
None .....	85%	13	2	325
Source of Information				
Television .....	78%	19	3	749
Newspaper .....	77%	21	3	477
Radio .....	71%	26	3	61
Magazine .....	62%	35	3	34
Other .....	68%	23	9	96
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1 .....	83%	14	3	503
2-3 .....	75%	21	4	706
4-6 .....	67%	30	2	288

\* See Appendices for explanation.



## HEALTH ISSUES: ABORTION — Mandated 24-hour Waiting Period

**Question:** Do you agree or disagree with the following legal requirement: that there must be a 24-hour waiting period before a woman has an abortion unless there's an emergency?

RESPONSES:	Agree	Disagree	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide .....	81%	16	3	1497
Rural/Urban*				
Rural .....	85%	12	3	320
Urban .....	80%	17	3	1174
Region*				
Northwest .....	83%	14	3	154
Southwest .....	84%	13	3	393
Central .....	83%	15	2	309
Northeast .....	84%	13	3	101
Southeast .....	77%	20	4	537
Age				
18 to 34 year olds .....	81%	17	2	447
35-49 .....	81%	15	4	459
50-64 .....	82%	14	4	301
65 or older .....	79%	17	4	266
Sex				
Female .....	79%	18	3	787
Male .....	84%	14	3	700
Educational Level				
Less than High School .....	89%	8	3	194
High School Graduate .....	85%	12	3	815
College Graduate .....	71%	26	3	470
Political Affiliation				
Republican .....	83%	13	4	509
Democrat .....	77%	20	2	557
Independent/Other .....	80%	16	4	81
None .....	84%	13	3	323
Source of Information				
Television .....	83%	14	3	743
Newspaper .....	80%	17	3	480
Radio .....	74%	21	5	61
Magazine .....	68%	32	0	34
Other .....	75%	20	5	95
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1 .....	83%	13	4	499
2-3 .....	83%	15	3	708
4-6 .....	73%	24	2	287

\*See Appendices for explanation.

## HEALTH ISSUES: ABORTION — Mandated Counseling

**Question:** Do you agree or disagree with the following legal requirement: that a woman must receive counseling before she has an abortion?

RESPONSES:	Agree	Disagree	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide .....	78%	19	3	1487
Rural/Urban*				
Rural .....	81%	16	3	321
Urban .....	77%	21	2	1176
Region*				
Northwest .....	80%	18	3	156
Southwest .....	82%	16	2	394
Central .....	78%	19	3	309
Northeast .....	77%	18	5	101
Southeast .....	75%	23	2	537
Age				
18 to 34 year olds .....	79%	19	2	446
35-49 .....	78%	20	2	459
50-64 .....	78%	19	3	302
65 or older .....	76%	19	5	268
Sex				
Female .....	78%	19	3	788
Male .....	78%	20	2	701
Educational Level				
Less than High School .....	80%	17	3	194
High School Graduate .....	82%	16	2	819
College Graduate .....	71%	26	3	468
Political Affiliation				
Republican .....	77%	20	2	510
Democrat .....	77%	21	2	561
Independent/Other .....	72%	23	5	81
None .....	83%	14	3	321
Source of Information				
Television .....	80%	17	3	746
Newspaper .....	77%	21	2	480
Radio .....	85%	13	2	61
Magazine .....	65%	32	3	34
Other .....	70%	24	6	95
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1 .....	81%	16	3	501
2-3 .....	81%	17	3	711
4-6 .....	66%	32	2	285

\* See Appendices for explanation.

## HEALTH ISSUES: FETAL PROTECTION — Employer's Right to Refuse to Hire/Lay Off

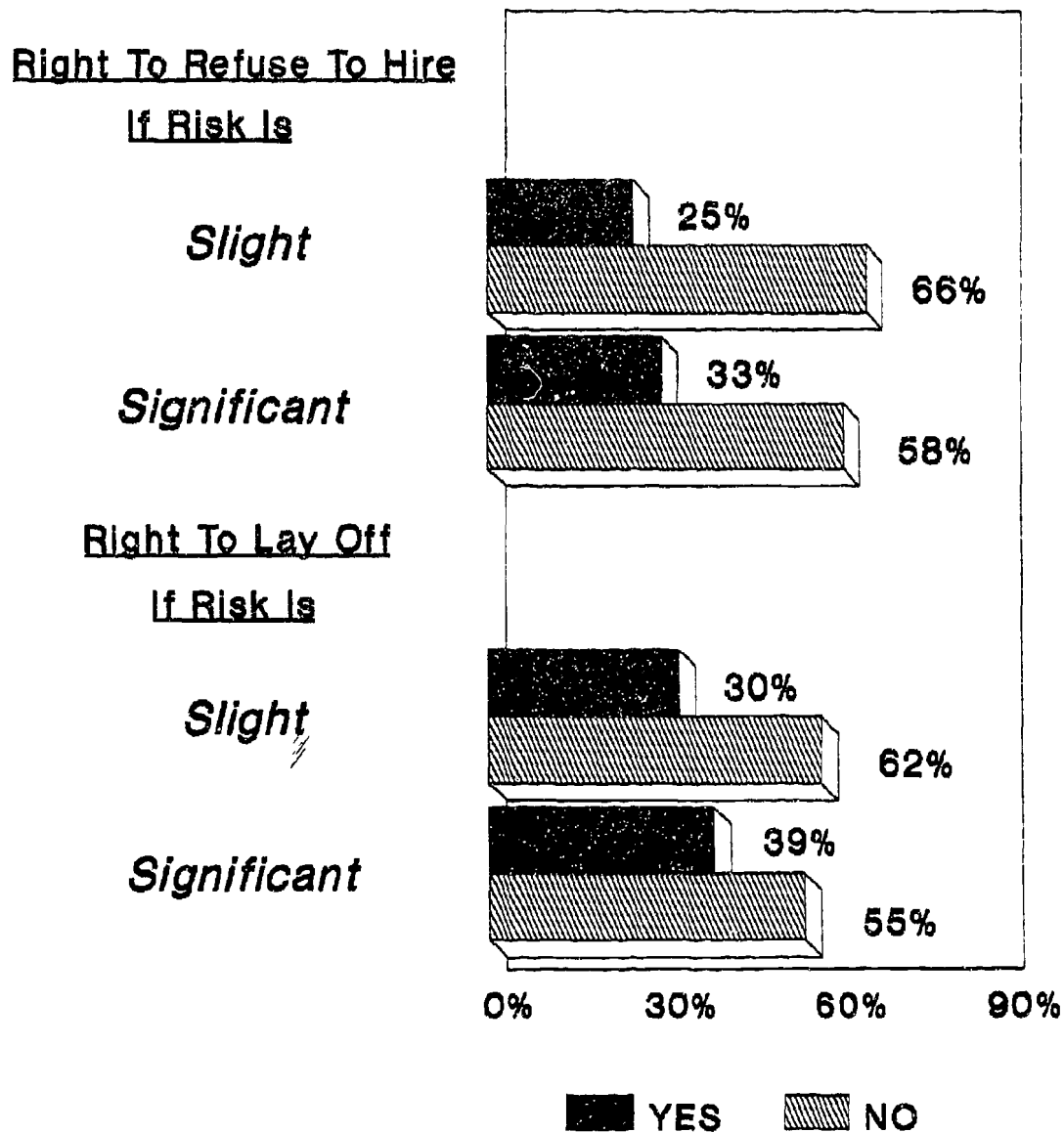
**Question:** If a pregnant woman works in a job where she is exposed to lead there is a *slight/significant* risk that she will bear a child with a *serious* birth defect. Keeping this in mind, do you think an employer has the right to refuse to hire a woman, unless she provides evidence that she cannot become pregnant? In the same situation, does the employer have the right to lay off a woman if she becomes pregnant? (Split ballot question)

RESPONSES:	Right to Refuse To Hire if the risk is		Right to Lay-Off if the risk is	
	"Slight"	"Significant"	"Slight"	"Significant"
Statewide .....	25%	33%	30%	39%
Rural/Urban*				
Rural .....	24	21	30	34
Urban .....	25	37	30	40
Region*				
Northwest .....	22	25	29	31
Southwest .....	27	33	31	42
Central .....	26	30	35	40
Northeast .....	24	39	29	46
Southeast .....	24	36	28	37
Age				
18 to 34 year olds .....	23	34	33	43
35-49 .....	20	32	29	41
50-64 .....	25	29	24	36
65 or older .....	35	40	35	33
Sex				
Female .....	23	32	32	38
Male .....	28	34	29	40
Educational Level				
Less than High School .....	36	39	35	33
High School Graduate .....	24	34	31	40
College Graduate .....	21	29	28	39
Political Affiliation				
Republican .....	31	33	34	41
Democrat .....	22	30	26	36
Independent/Other .....	20	32	31	43
None .....	21	37	30	40
Source of Information				
Television .....	28	31	29	34
Newspaper .....	23	35	32	37
Radio .....	7	33	37	36
Magazine .....	12	44	22	56
Other .....	23	29	25	41
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1 .....	26	32	32	41
2-3 .....	26	33	31	38
4-6 .....	21	33	25	38

\* See Appendices for explanation.

### Figure 3. FETAL PROTECTION POLICIES

Rights Of Employers If There Is Danger Of  
Lead Exposure To A Pregnant Woman



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University 1991

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## GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND TAXES

- Most Pennsylvanians want to cut spending, yet they are generally unwilling to accept reductions in programs and services . . . They will accept means testing as a way to cut spending and casino gambling as a way to increase revenue . . . If taxes are to be raised, they are most willing to have the corporate tax raised and least willing to have the income tax raised . . . Given the choice of either increasing the current sales tax to 7% or expanding it to cover currently exempt items and services, a majority of Pennsylvanians prefer an expansion . . . A strong majority are willing to accept an increase in the consumption taxes.

Faced with the hard choice of either cutting state spending or increasing taxes, most Pennsylvanians(62%) say "cut spending." However, when asked about what programs and services to reduce, most are reluctant to reduce any of them. Among nine areas of spending by the state (see p. 24), Pennsylvanians are most willing to cut highway maintenance (32%), job training for unemployed (30%), and environmental protection (28%). They are least willing to cut programs for basic education (15%). Most Pennsylvanians (74%) feel that economic need, not age itself, should be the basis of providing benefits and tax exemptions for the elderly. Currently, most of the programs for the elderly are already "means tested," but there are differences of opinion as to what constitutes economic need.

To generate additional state revenue, overall about 60% of Pennsylvanians favor the legalization of casino gambling in selected resort areas of the state. Among male Democrats, 69% want legalization. Regionally, there is much more support for it in southern Pennsylvania than in the central and northeastern areas of the state.

Of the major sources of tax revenue for the state (the sales tax, the income tax, the corporate tax, and the inheritance tax), Pennsylvanians are most willing to raise the corporate tax(48%) and least willing to raise the income tax(44%). Party differences in choice are slight. Female Democrats (55%) are most inclined to support raising the corporate tax; male Republicans (42%) are least likely.

To generate additional tax revenue, Governor Casey has proposed some expansions of the sales tax, specifically to apply to out-of-state telephone calls and cable TV services. As shown in Figure 6, a majority of Pennsylvanians would accept an extension of the sales tax to many items and services that are currently exempt. In fact, given the hard choice of either raising the current 6% sales tax to 7% or extending the current 6% sales tax to some currently exempt items and services, Pennsylvanians prefer an extension by a 51-38% margin. Somewhat surprisingly, the only region of the state in which people prefer an increase rather than elimination of exemptions is the Northeast (53% versus 36% in other regions). The Northeast is Governor Casey's home region.

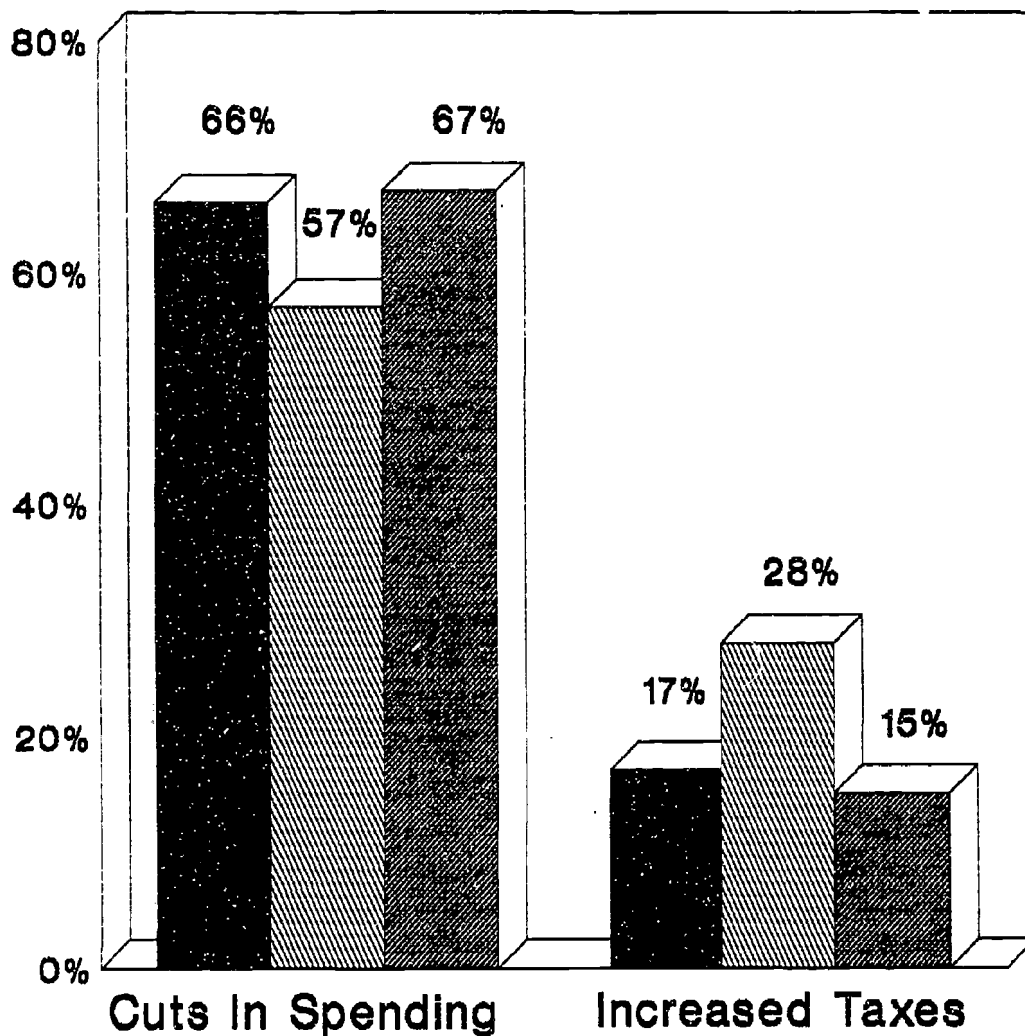
In terms of specific items and services, Pennsylvanians are most willing to put a sales tax on alcoholic beverages bought in bars(76%), and advertising(72%). They are least willing to favor putting a sales tax on shoes, clothing, and over-the-counter drugs(20%). Interestingly, there is very little difference of opinion among Republicans and Democrats.

Pennsylvanians rather strongly(80%) support proposals to raise the consumption (cigarette, beer, and liquor) taxes as a way of reducing the state deficit. The support is especially strong among Republicans and persons who are college graduates. However, at the same time, Pennsylvanians are equally opposed(79%) to any proposed increase in the gasoline tax.

## Figure 4. BALANCING THE BUDGET PARTY DIFFERENCES

Percent of Respondents "Favoring"

REPUBLICANS      DEMOCRATS  
NOT REGISTERED



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University 1991



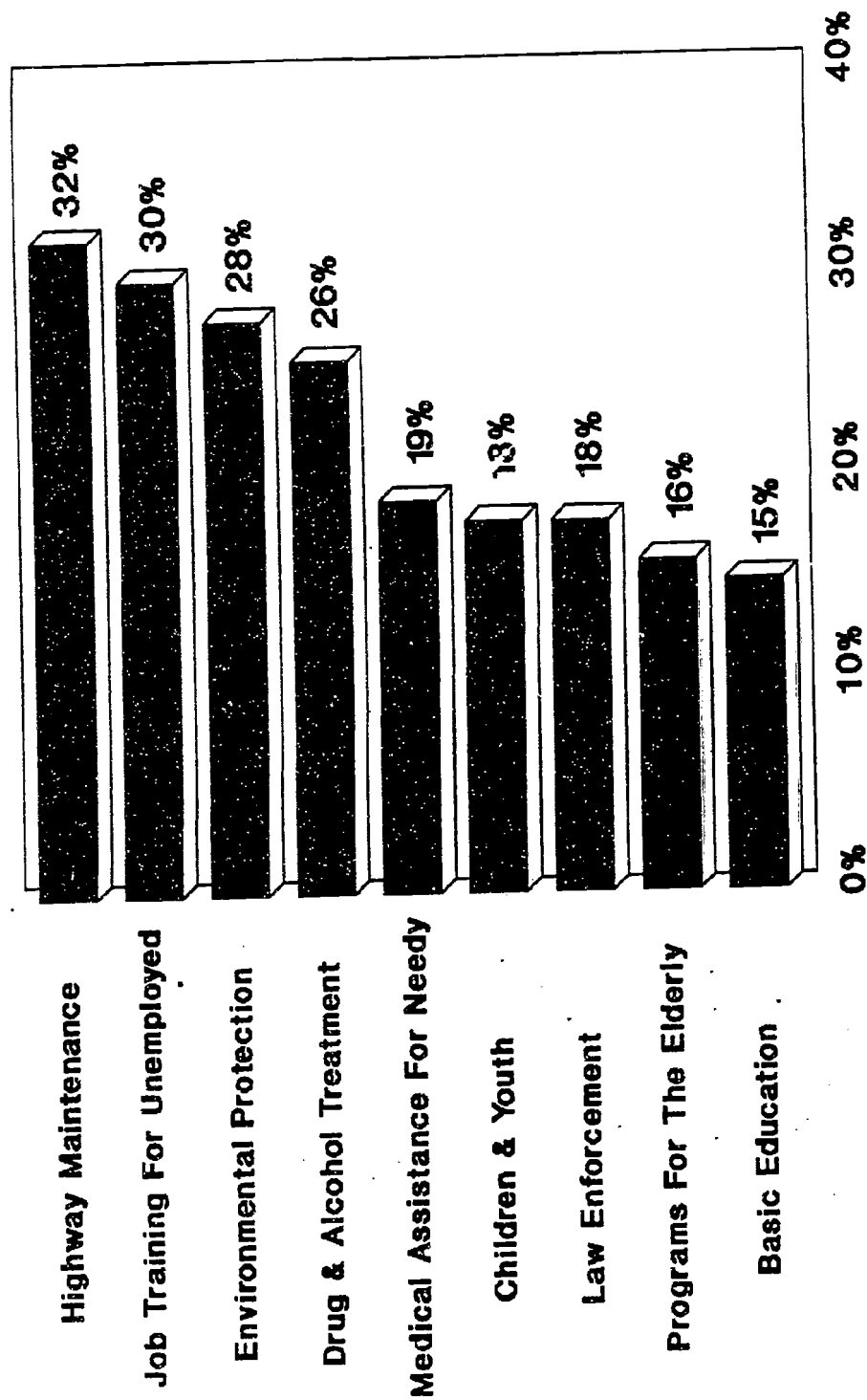
## GOVERNMENT: Cut Spending or Raise Taxes?

**Question:** As you know, the state is having serious budget problems. If you had to make the hard choice to cut spending OR increase taxes, what would you do?

RESPONSES:	Cut Spending	Increase Taxes	Both	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide .....	62%	21	8	9	1487
Rural/Urban*					
Rural .....	62%	19	7	12	323
Urban .....	63%	21	8	8	1164
Region*					
Northwest .....	64%	15	8	13	154
Southwest .....	61%	23	6	10	395
Central .....	61%	23	7	9	309
Northeast .....	64%	18	5	13	97
Southeast .....	64%	20	10	6	532
Age					
18 to 34 year olds .....	61%	24	8	7	446
35-49 .....	62%	23	9	7	453
50-64 .....	65%	18	8	9	301
65 or older .....	63%	16	6	15	267
Sex					
Female .....	63%	20	7	11	785
Male .....	62%	21	10	7	696
Educational Level					
Less than High School ....	64%	16	3	18	192
High School Graduate ...	68%	17	7	9	814
College Graduate .....	53%	29	12	6	466
Political Affiliation					
Republican .....	66%	17	10	7	507
Democrat .....	57%	28	8	8	555
Independent/Other .....	61%	20	9	10	80
None .....	67%	15	5	13	323
Source of Information					
Television .....	64%	20	7	10	742
Newspaper .....	63%	20	9	8	478
Radio .....	60%	23	10	8	62
Magazines .....	36%	42	12	9	33
Other .....	61%	24	6	8	95
Social-Political Awareness Score					
0-1 .....	65%	18	4	12	500
2-3 .....	63%	21	9	8	702
4-6 .....	57%	25	12	7	285

\* See Appendices for explanation.

**Figure 5. GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES  
Respondents "Favoring" The Reduction Of Spending For...**



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University 1991

## GOVERNMENT SPENDING: Willingness to Accept Reductions

**Question:** For each of the following areas of spending by the state, please tell me whether you think the state should *reduce* programs and services.

RESPONSES:	Elderly	Children Youth	Job Training Unemployed	Drug/ Alcohol	Law Enf.
Statewide .....	16%	18%	30%	26%	18%
Rural/Urban*					
Rural .....	14	13	29	23	17
Urban .....	17	19	31	28	19
Region*					
Northwest .....	14	12	28	25	18
Southwest .....	17	20	29	28	21
Central .....	16	19	31	24	17
Northeast .....	14	11	27	27	16
Southeast .....	16	19	32	27	18
Age					
18 to 34 year olds .....	16	14	31	24	21
35-49 .....	15	20	29	26	16
50-64 .....	15	16	32	29	18
65 or older .....	19	22	31	27	18
Sex					
Female .....	15	18	29	22	17
Male .....	17	18	32	31	20
Educational Level					
Less than High School ....	23	23	39	30	23
High School Graduate ...	15	16	28	25	18
College Graduate .....	16	18	30	27	17
Political Affiliation					
Republican .....	16	20	32	29	16
Democrat .....	15	15	27	24	19
Independent/Other ....	19	21	34	29	25
None .....	17	20	33	26	19
Source of Information					
Television .....	17	18	31	27	20
Newspaper .....	15	16	30	26	17
Radio .....	11	10	29	21	21
Magazines .....	15	21	27	21	9
Other .....	16	27	27	27	23
Social-Political Awareness Score					
0-1 .....	17	17	29	26	20
2-3 .....	15	18	32	26	17
4-6 .....	17	20	29	28	18

## GOVERNMENT SPENDING: Willingness to Accept Reductions (cont'd)

**Question:** For each of the following areas of spending by the state, please tell me whether you think the state should *reduce* programs and services.

RESPONSES:	Highway Maint.	Med. Asst. Needy	Envir. Protect.	Basic Educ.
Statewide .....	32%	19%	28%	15%
Rural/Urban*				
Rural .....	28	16	30	11
Urban .....	33	19	27	16
Region*				
Northwest .....	29	16	31	13
Southwest .....	32	16	29	16
Central .....	32	20	28	14
Northeast .....	31	22	32	16
Southeast .....	33	21	25	15
Age				
18 to 34 year olds .....	35	17	25	15
35-49 .....	32	19	26	13
50-64 .....	21	20	33	15
65 or older .....	28	21	30	21
Sex				
Female .....	32	18	27	14
Male .....	32	20	29	17
Educational Level				
Less than High School .....	33	24	33	25
High School Graduate .....	31	17	29	14
College Graduate .....	33	20	25	14
Political Affiliation				
Republican .....	30	20	29	16
Democrat .....	33	17	28	13
Independent/Other .....	29	24	20	17
None .....	34	19	28	17
Source of Information				
Television .....	32	20	27	18
Newspaper .....	34	19	29	14
Radio .....	25	16	24	10
Magazines .....	24	9	21	9
Other .....	35	19	29	15
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1 .....	31	17	27	14
2-3 .....	33	20	29	16
4-6 .....	32	19	27	14

\* See Appendices for explanation.

## GOVERNMENT SPENDING: Means Testing

**Question:** Currently, some programs for the elderly are given to anyone 62 or older, regardless of financial need. To cut the costs of such services, it has been proposed to give benefits only to the elderly who have financial need. Do you generally agree or disagree with that proposal?

RESPONSES:	Agree	Disagree	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide .....	74%	22	4	1492
Rural/Urban*				
Rural .....	69%	26	6	324
Urban .....	76%	21	3	1168
Region*				
Northwest .....	61%	34	5	154
Southwest .....	75%	23	2	393
Central .....	78%	18	5	312
Northeast .....	77%	20	3	99
Southeast .....	74%	21	5	534
Age				
18 to 34 year olds .....	80%	19	2	445
35-49 .....	75%	22	3	460
50-64 .....	75%	21	5	302
65 or older .....	62%	30	8	267
Sex				
Female .....	74%	22	4	780
Male .....	74%	22	3	707
Educational Level				
Less than High School .....	67%	28	5	194
High School Graduate .....	73%	23	4	818
College Graduate .....	78%	19	3	467
Political Affiliation				
Republican .....	76%	20	4	509
Democrat .....	73%	23	4	557
Independent/Other .....	74%	21	5	82
None .....	72%	24	4	325
Source of Information				
Television .....	73%	24	3	748
Newspaper .....	75%	21	4	479
Radio .....	76%	16	8	63
Magazine .....	70%	27	3	33
Other .....	73%	21	6	95
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1 .....	68%	27	5	497
2-3 .....	76%	21	3	708
4-6 .....	81%	16	3	287

\* See Appendices for explanation.

## GOVERNMENT REVENUE: Extension of Gambling

**Question:** Some states are extending legalized betting to raise state revenue. Would you favor or oppose the legalization of casino gambling in selected resort areas of Pennsylvania?

RESPONSES:	Favor	Oppose	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide .....	60%	36	4	1495
Rural/Urban*				
Rural .....	58%	39	3	322
Urban .....	61%	35	4	1173
Region*				
Northwest .....	61%	34	5	153
Southwest .....	64%	34	3	395
Central .....	52%	46	2	311
Northeast .....	53%	44	3	100
Southeast .....	64%	31	5	536
Age				
18 to 34 year olds .....	64%	34	3	445
35-49 .....	66%	31	4	461
50-64 .....	59%	37	4	302
65 or older .....	49%	46	5	269
Sex				
Female .....	57%	39	4	788
Male .....	64%	33	3	702
Educational Level				
Less than High School .....	53%	41	6	195
High School Graduate .....	61%	36	4	820
College Graduate .....	63%	35	2	469
Political Affiliation				
Republican .....	58%	38	4	511
Democrat .....	63%	35	2	560
Independent/Other .....	64%	31	5	80
None .....	62%	35	4	325
Source of Information				
Television .....	61%	36	3	749
Newspaper .....	60%	37	3	481
Radio .....	45%	48	7	62
Magazine .....	55%	46	0	33
Other .....	59%	37	4	96
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1 .....	59%	37	4	499
2-3 .....	61%	36	3	708
4-6 .....	62%	35	3	288

\* See Appendices for explanation.



## GOVERNMENT TAXES: Most Willing to Have Increased

**Question:** At this time, there are four major sources of tax revenue for the state to fund programs and services. They are: the 6% sales tax, the state income tax, the corporate tax, and the tax on inheritances. Assuming that taxes have to be raised, which one are you *most* willing to have increased?

RESPONSES:	Sales	Income	Corporate	Inheritance	Number of Respondents
Statewide .....	22%	15	48	15	1456
Rural/Urban*					
Rural .....	27%	11	47	14	310
Urban .....	21%	16	48	15	1146
Region*					
Northwest .....	25%	12	48	14	147
Southwest .....	25%	16	45	14	381
Central .....	22%	19	45	14	305
Northeast .....	22%	10	51	18	97
Southeast .....	19%	14	52	15	526
Age					
18 to 34 year olds .....	19%	11	49	21	442
35-49 .....	19%	17	52	12	453
50-64 .....	24%	16	47	14	292
65 or older .....	29%	17	43	11	254
Sex					
Female .....	20%	12	51	17	770
Male .....	24%	18	45	13	683
Educational Level					
Less than High School ....	28%	16	41	15	182
High School Graduate ...	22%	12	51	16	804
College Graduate .....	20%	20	46	13	461
Political Affiliation					
Republican .....	23%	19	46	13	494
Democrat .....	20%	14	52	15	550
Independent/Other .....	26%	10	47	17	78
None .....	23%	13	46	18	319
Source of Information					
Television .....	22%	13	49	16	732
Newspaper .....	22%	17	49	12	468
Radio .....	15%	25	44	15	59
Magazines .....	18%	18	42	21	33
Other .....	20%	14	48	19	92
Social-Political Awareness Score					
0-1 .....	23%	10	49	19	484
2-3 .....	23%	15	50	12	685
4-6 .....	18%	23	43	16	287

\* See Appendices for explanation.

## GOVERNMENT TAXES: Least Willing to Have Increased

**Question:** At this time, there are four major sources of tax revenue for the state to fund programs and services. They are: the 6% sales tax, the state income tax, the corporate tax, and the tax on inheritances. Which tax are you *least* willing to have increased?

RESPONSES:	Sales	Income	Corporate	Inheritance	Number of Respondents
Statewide .....	33%	44	6	17	1469
Rural/Urban*					
Rural .....	30%	46	6	18	317
Urban .....	34%	43	6	17	1152
Region*					
Northwest .....	32%	45	6	17	150
Southwest .....	33%	41	8	19	385
Central .....	37%	40	6	17	307
Northeast .....	34%	41	3	22	97
Southeast .....	32%	49	5	15	530
Age					
18 to 34 year olds .....	37%	45	6	12	447
35-49 .....	36%	42	5	17	456
50-64 .....	26%	46	8	20	296
65 or older .....	32%	41	4	23	253
Sex					
Female .....	36%	43	5	16	779
Male .....	31%	44	7	18	687
Educational Level					
Less than High School ....	33%	45	6	17	181
High School Graduate ...	32%	46	5	17	815
College Graduate .....	36%	38	8	17	463
Political Affiliation					
Republican .....	34%	41	7	18	499
Democrat .....	35%	42	7	17	553
Independent/Other ....	27%	53	1	18	77
None .....	32%	49	4	16	322
Source of Information					
Television .....	34%	43	6	18	739
Newspaper .....	35%	43	6	16	470
Radio .....	33%	40	8	18	60
Magazines .....	33%	39	15	12	33
Other .....	32%	44	4	19	43
Social-Political Awareness Score					
0-1 .....	34%	45	6	15	488
2-3 .....	34%	43	5	18	697
4-6 .....	32%	43	8	18	284

\* See Appendices for explanation.

## GOVERNMENT: Public Opinion on Expansion of the Sales Tax

**Question:** Currently you do not have to pay the 6% sales tax on the following goods and services. Please tell me if you would FAVOR or OPPOSE having them taxed as a way to reduce the state's deficit.

PERCENT RESPONDENTS "FAVORING"	Legal Fees	Computer Serv. Fees	Architect Fees	Out-of-State Phone Calls	Newspapers & TV ads	Drinks in Bars
Statewide .....	53%	62%	62%	43%	72%	76%
Rural/Urban*						
Rural .....	53	65	64	48	73	79
Urban .....	54	61	62	42	72	76
Region*						
Northwest .....	53	63	65	51	73	76
Southwest .....	53	64	62	42	70	75
Central .....	51	63	61	48	75	78
Northeast .....	47	58	60	37	73	79
Southeast .....	56	61	63	40	72	76
Age						
18 to 34 years olds .....	54	67	66	41	74	69
35-49 .....	57	64	65	46	74	82
50-64 .....	50	58	61	42	71	77
65 or older .....	50	56	55	44	70	80
Sex						
Female .....	50	61	60	40	71	81
Male .....	58	64	65	48	73	71
Educational Level						
Less than High School .....	50	57	56	41	59	70
High School Graduate .....	53	63	63	42	74	74
College Graduate .....	56	64	64	46	75	83
Political Affiliation						
Republican .....	55	62	63	43	76	78
Democrat .....	52	62	62	43	72	75
Independent/Other .....	51	60	58	46	77	78
None .....	56	65	64	44	69	75
Source of Information						
Television .....	53	61	62	44	73	76
Newspaper .....	56	65	64	45	74	78
Radio .....	54	58	61	48	69	76
Magazine .....	53	77	58	41	70	67
Other .....	45	57	59	37	72	77
Social-Political Awareness Score						
0-1 .....	50	60	60	40	69	74
2-3 .....	56	64	66	45	74	78
4-6 .....	54	60	58	44	73	75

\*See Appendices for explanation.

## GOVERNMENT: Public Opinion on Expansion of the Sales Tax (cont'd)

**Question:** Currently, you do not have to pay the 6% sales tax on the following goods and services. Please tell me if you would FAVOR or OPPOSE having them taxed as a way to reduce the state's deficit.

PERCENT RESPONDENTS "FAVORING"	Clothing & Shoes	Over-the-Counter Drugs	Cable TV Serv.	Newspapers & Magazines	Cleaning Supplies	Candy & Gum
Statewide .....	20%	20%	54%	55%	34%	61%
Rural/Urban*						
Rural .....	20	27	55	57	34	60
Urban .....	20	19	54	54	34	62
Region*						
Northwest .....	22	26	55	50	31	54
Southwest .....	21	22	51	58	36	65
Central .....	16	21	56	58	35	62
Northeast .....	21	19	51	49	31	51
Southeast .....	22	17	56	52	34	63
Age						
18 to 34 years olds .....	23	24	55	61	42	68
35-49 .....	20	21	57	57	36	61
50-64 .....	18	18	52	52	32	61
65 or older .....	20	16	49	43	20	53
Sex						
Female .....	19	18	51	54	30	59
Male .....	22	23	58	55	38	64
Educational Level						
Less than High School .....	15	16	42	43	29	50
High School Graduate .....	21	22	53	55	33	60
College Graduate .....	21	20	62	59	40	69
Political Affiliation						
Republican .....	20	19	57	54	32	64
Democrat .....	19	18	53	52	33	59
Independent/Other .....	24	28	59	63	51	65
None .....	24	25	52	60	36	60
Source of Information						
Television .....	21	22	51	57	33	60
Newspaper .....	19	18	61	53	33	66
Radio .....	21	29	61	57	42	66
Magazine .....	27	24	70	53	56	68
Other .....	23	18	48	55	45	55
Social-Political Awareness Score						
0-1 .....	22	20	49	57	34	59
2-3 .....	20	21	56	56	34	62
4-6 .....	18	21	59	47	36	64

\*See Appendices for explanation.

## GOVERNMENT TAXES: Increase Sales Tax to 7% vs Expand 6% Sales Tax

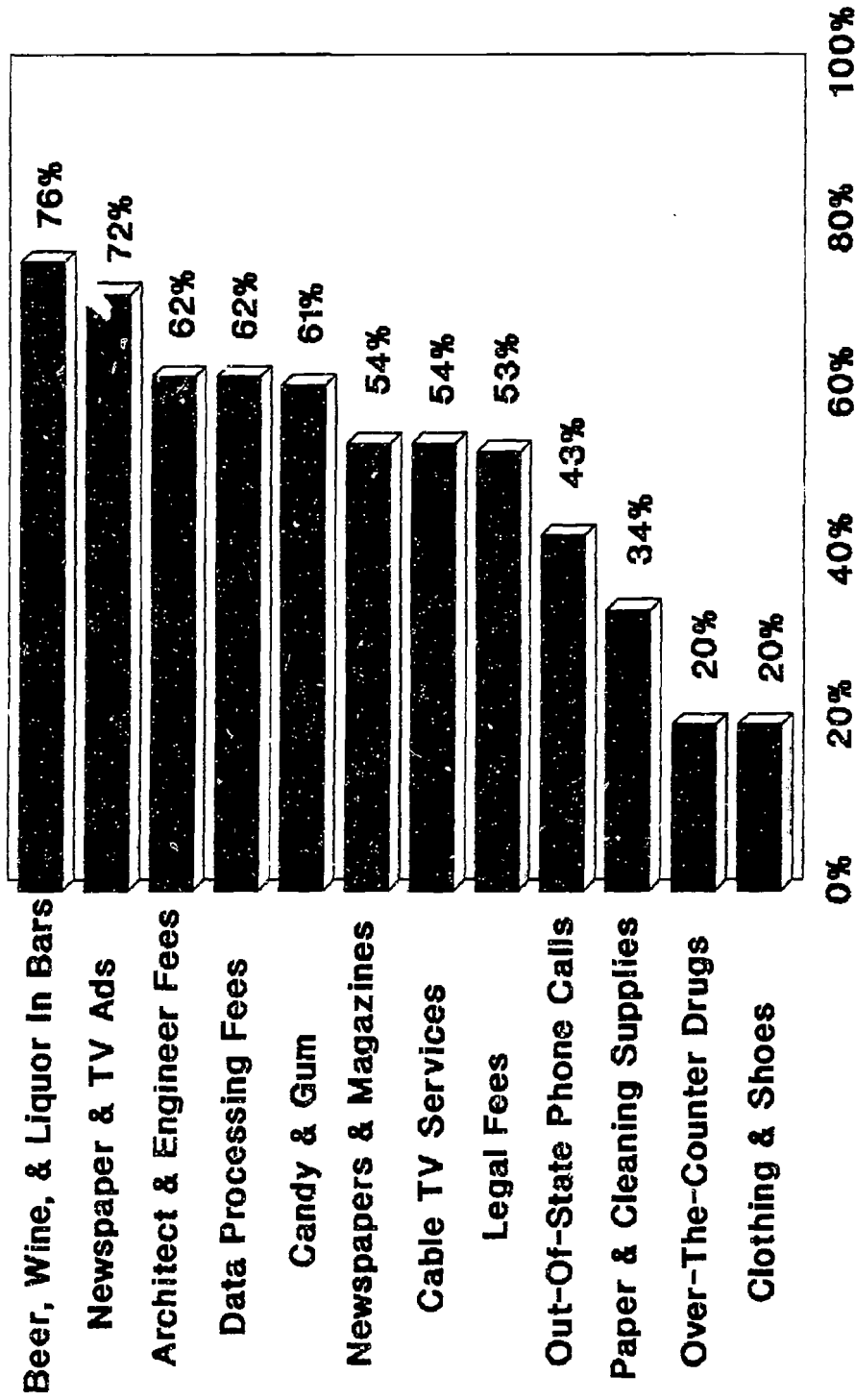
**Question:** If you had the choice of either raising the current 6% sales tax to 7% or putting a 6% tax on most of the items and services that I have just listed, what would you prefer?

RESPONSES:	Increase	Expand	Both	DK	Number of Respondents
Statewide .....	38%	51	2	9	1493
Rural/Urban*					
Rural .....	28%	50	1	11	233
Urban .....	37%	52	2	9	1170
Region*					
Northwest .....	37%	49	1	13	154
Southwest .....	38%	51	2	10	390
Central .....	39%	51	2	8	310
Northeast .....	53%	37	2	8	100
Southeast .....	34%	55	2	9	539
Age					
18 to 34 year olds .....	39%	55	1	5	447
35-49 .....	38%	53	4	5	463
50-64 .....	34%	53	1	13	302
65 or older .....	38%	41	2	20	266
Sex					
Female .....	39%	50	1	9	786
Male .....	36%	52	3	9	704
Educational Level					
Less than High School ....	33%	48	1	19	194
High School Graduate ...	38%	51	2	9	822
College Graduate .....	39%	53	2	6	470
Political Affiliation					
Republican .....	35%	53	2	9	512
Democrat .....	38%	50	3	9	561
Independent/Other ....	38%	52	0	10	79
None .....	41%	51	1	8	326
Source of Information					
Television .....	38%	53	2	7	753
Newspapers .....	39%	51	2	9	482
Radio .....	28%	58	5	8	60
Magazines .....	35%	53	3	9	34
Other .....	32%	40	2	26	94
Social-Political Awareness Score					
0-1 .....	37%	51	2	11	495
2-3 .....	38%	51	2	9	710
4-6 .....	37%	52	2	9	288

\* See Appendices for explanation.

# Figure 6. EXPANSION OF SALES TAX

Percent of Respondents Who 'Favor' Putting A 6% Sales Tax On



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University 1991

## GOVERNMENT: Raising Consumption Taxes

*Question:* To help reduce the state deficit, please tell me if you would favor or oppose an increase in the following taxes.

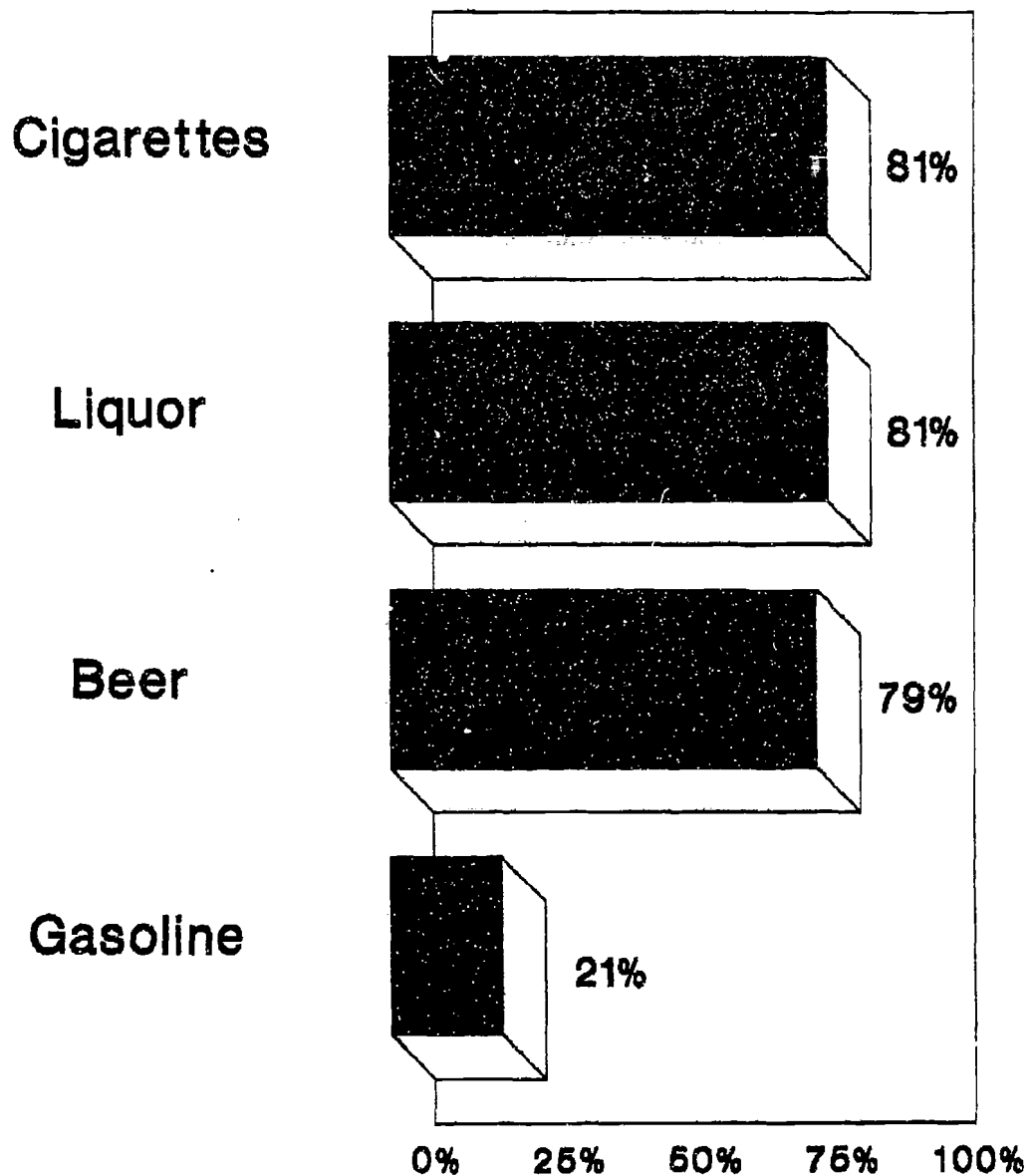
PERCENT RESPONDENTS "FAVORING"	Cigarettes	Beer	Liquor	Gasoline
Statewide .....	81%	79%	81%	21%
Rural/Urban*				
Rural .....	83	83	83	17
Urban .....	81	78	81	22
Region*				
Northwest .....	85	83	84	25
Southwest .....	76	76	79	18
Central .....	84	82	82	18
Northeast .....	82	78	81	9
Southeast .....	82	79	82	25
Age				
18 to 34 years old .....	81	72	75	18
35-49 .....	84	83	85	22
50-64 .....	81	83	84	19
65 or older .....	78	79	83	25
Sex				
Female .....	82	83	86	18
Male .....	80	74	77	24
Educational Level				
Less than High School .....	73	75	80	16
High School Graduate .....	79	78	80	18
College Graduate .....	89	83	84	28
Political Affiliation				
Republican .....	85	82	84	22
Democrat .....	79	78	79	21
Independent/Other .....	81	80	84	23
None .....	79	77	81	17
Source of Information				
Television .....	80	79	82	19
Newspaper .....	83	80	81	20
Radio .....	82	82	84	34
Magazine .....	91	82	85	38
Other .....	82	76	79	23
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1 .....	79	77	89	15
2-3 .....	82	80	83	20
4-6 .....	84	79	80	31

\*\*See Appendices for explanation.



## Figure 7. CONSUMPTION TAXES

Percent of Respondents Willing To Increase Taxes On...



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University 1991

## GOVERNMENT: Political Party Differences By Sex

RESPONSES:	Democrats		Republican		Total*
	Female	Male	Female	Male	
<b>Willing to Increase TAXES on</b>					
Cigarettes .....	80%	78%	86%	84%	81%
Beer .....	80	75	87	76	79
Liquor .....	83	75	89	79	79
Gasoline .....	18	26	18	26	21
<b>Willing to apply SALES TAX to:</b>					
Beer & Liquor In Bars .....	79	70	85	72	76
Newspaper & TV Ads .....	70	74	76	75	72
Architect & Engineer Fees .....	59	66	63	63	62
Data Processing Fees .....	60	63	59	65	62
Candy and Gum .....	56	64	63	66	61
Newspapers and Magazines .....	52	52	55	54	54
Cable TV Service .....	51	56	55	58	54
Legal Fees .....	47	59	49	59	53
Out-of-State Phone Calls .....	39	50	41	45	43
Paper and Cleaning Supplies .....	30	37	28	36	34
Over-the Counter Drugs .....	17	21	17	20	20
Clothing and Shoes .....	17	21	20	20	20
<b>Willing to Extend Gambling .....</b>					
	58	69	57	59	60
<b>Willing to REDUCE SPENDING for:</b>					
Drug and Alcohol Program .....	29	36	28	34	31
Environmental Protection .....	29	23	24	32	27
Highway Maintenance .....	24	28	24	31	27
Job Training For Unemployed .....	22	22	21	29	25
Medical Assistance For Needy .....	20	24	24	28	24
Basic Education .....	19	17	20	22	20
Children and Youth .....	13	22	19	23	19
Law Enforcement .....	16	24	14	18	18
Programs For The Elderly .....	10	10	8	14	11

\* These figures include respondents who described themselves as independents, other political party registrants, and non-registered.

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## SOCIAL-POLITICAL AWARENESS

- **Most Pennsylvanians underestimate the actual size of Pennsylvania's population, but they greatly overestimate the percentage of Pennsylvanians who are black, and the percentage who are elderly . . . 85 % of Pennsylvanians can name their governor, but less than one-third can name both U.S. Senators . . . Sen. Heinz was more widely known than Sen. Specter.**

Unfortunately, opinions are not always based upon accurate perceptions and knowledge. Over the past few years, there have been a variety of reports claiming that Americans are culturally illiterate. For example, in its "Report Card on Economic Illiteracy," the Joint Council on Economic Education reported that high school seniors have a dismal understanding of the basic concepts of economics. Similarly, the Kinsey Institute reported that despite the so-called sexual revolution, a high percentage of people remain naive in their understanding of human sexuality. And, in his popular book, *Innumeracy* (1988), the mathematician John Paulos pointed out that most Americans are not only illiterate, but also innumerate. In other words, they lack a clearly developed sense of numerical concepts; they are often guided by misperceptions of risks and probabilities.

As a simple test of socio-political awareness, Pennsylvanians were asked to estimate the population of Pennsylvania, the percentage of the population that is black, and the percentage that is 65 or older. In addition, respondents were asked to name the governor and Pennsylvania's two U.S. senators.

**Pennsylvania Population Estimates.** National surveys show that when Americans are asked to estimate the size of the United States population, about 25% underestimate the population — that is, they cite a figure of less than 200 million. Among Pennsylvanians, the tendency to underestimate Pennsylvanian's population is rather pronounced. There are actually about 12 million Pennsylvanians, yet 34% of Pennsylvanians would guess that the figure is less than 8 million. Females(41%) and the young adults (44%) are the most likely to underestimate; college-educated respondents(29%) are least likely.

**Estimates of the Black Population.** Blacks actually constitute about 9% of Pennsylvania's population. However, most Pennsylvanians think the figure is much higher: 80% have the notion that Blacks make up more than 12% of the population; 56%, think the figure is 25% or more. The tendency of Pennsylvanians to have exaggerated notions about the percent of Americans who are black is consistent with national surveys.

**Estimates of the Elderly Population.** Persons 65 or older actually constitute about 15% of Pennsylvania's population. However, most Pennsylvanians think the figure is much higher: 87% think the percentage is higher than it really is; half of the population think the figure is 30% or higher.

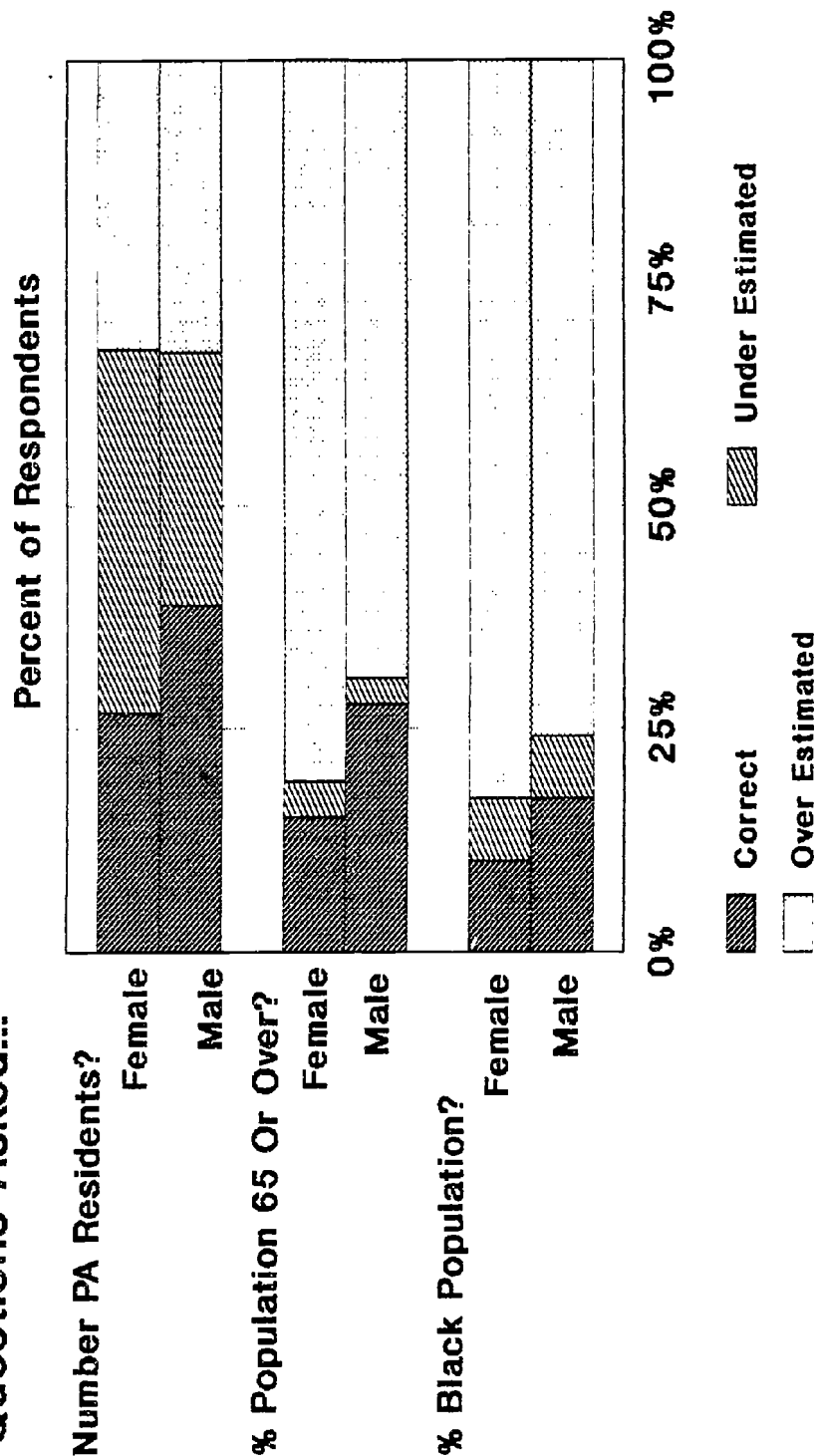
**Ability to Name the Governor.** In surveys conducted by the National Opinion Research Center, it has been generally found that 79% of Americans are able to name the governor of their state. Among Pennsylvanians, 85% are able to do so.

**Ability to Name United States Senators.** When asked to name the two United States Senators that represent them, about 31% of Pennsylvanians were able to do so. Among Pennsylvanians, the late Senator John Heinz (he died after the survey was conducted) was particularly well-known: 50% were able to name him as one of the senators. Pennsylvania's junior senator, Arlen Specter, was less well-known: overall, only 39% were able to name him.

**Social Awareness Score.** Overall, only one percent of Pennsylvanians were able to answer all of the above questions; that is, their estimate of the Pennsylvania population was between 8 and 16 million; the estimated percent of black was between 6 and 12 percent; the estimated percent of persons 65 or older was between 10 and 20%; and, the governor and both senators were identified by name. About 43% gave three or more "correct" answers.

# Figure 8. SOCIAL-POLITICAL AWARENESS

## Questions Asked....



Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University 1991

## SOCIAL-POLITICAL AWARENESS: Estimates of Pennsylvania Population

Question: Just your best guess, about how many million people live in Pennsylvania?  
(Actual, 12 million)

RESPONSES	Under	Estimates Correct (8-16 million)	Over	Number of Respondents
Statewide .....	34%	33	33	1113
Rural/Urban*				
Rural .....	34%	34	31	227
Urban .....	34%	33	33	886
Region*				
Northwest .....	29%	35	36	114
Southwest .....	34%	34	32	278
Central .....	39%	29	32	241
Northeast .....	30%	38	32	69
Southeast .....	33%	34	33	411
Age				
18 to 34 year olds .....	44%	26	30	382
35-49 .....	31%	38	31	372
50-64 .....	24%	37	39	197
65 or older .....	30%	34	36	155
Sex				
Female .....	41%	27	33	517
Male .....	28%	39	33	594
Educational Level				
Less than High School .....	37%	32	32	123
High School Graduate .....	37%	29	34	595
College Graduate .....	29%	40	31	392
Political Affiliation				
Republican .....	33%	36	31	402
Democrat .....	34%	33	33	404
Independent/Other .....	20%	33	47	64
None .....	40%	29	32	238
Source of Information				
Television .....	36%	33	32	544
Newspaper .....	31%	35	34	375
Radio .....	36%	40	24	50
Magazine .....	39%	29	32	28
Other .....	35%	31	34	65
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1 .....	58%	5	37	295
2-3 .....	33%	30	38	534
4-6 .....	11%	70	19	284

\* See Appendices for explanation.

## SOCIAL-POLITICAL AWARENESS: Estimates of Black Population

Question: What percent of the Pennsylvania population would you say is black? (Actual, 9%)

RESPONSES	Estimates			Number of Respondents
	Under	Correct (6-12%)	Over	
Statewide .....	7%	14	80	1358
Rural/Urban*				
Rural .....	6%	14	80	284
Urban .....	7%	14	80	1074
Region*				
Northwest .....	6%	14	81	141
Southwest .....	7%	14	79	353
Central .....	5%	14	81	281
Northeast .....	8%	21	71	89
Southeast .....	8%	12	80	494
Age				
18 to 34 year olds .....	8%	10	82	432
35-49 .....	7%	18	75	435
50-64 .....	6%	16	79	264
65 or older .....	5%	11	84	216
Sex				
Female .....	7%	10	83	694
Male .....	7%	17	76	662
Educational Level				
Less than High School .....	10%	8	83	160
High School Graduate .....	5%	12	83	750
College Graduate .....	8%	19	73	442
Political Affiliation				
Republican .....	7%	13	80	476
Democrat .....	6%	17	78	505
Independent/Other .....	5%	12	82	74
None .....	8%	11	81	291
Source of Information				
Television .....	7%	11	81	683
Newspaper .....	6%	17	77	442
Radio .....	9%	13	77	53
Magazine .....	0%	9	91	33
Other .....	7%	16	77	83
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1 .....	8%	2	91	422
2-3 .....	7%	10	83	652
4-6 .....	4%	39	56	284

\* See Appendices for explanation.

## SOCIAL-POLITICAL AWARENESS: Estimates of Elderly Population

Question: What percent of the Pennsylvania population would you say is 65 or older? (Actual, 15%)

RESPONSES:	Estimates			Number of Respondents
	Under	Correct (10 - 20%)	Over	
Statewide .....	4%	21	75	1360
Rural/Urban*				
Rural .....	3%	19	78	284
Urban .....	4%	22	75	1076
Region*				
Northwest .....	3%	21	76	141
Southwest .....	3%	17	80	352
Central .....	4%	20	77	283
Northeast .....	1%	16	83	92
Southeast .....	5%	26	70	492
Age				
18 to 34 year olds .....	4%	23	74	431
35-49 .....	4%	27	70	425
50-64 .....	4%	14	82	265
65 or older .....	3%	16	81	227
Sex				
Female .....	4%	15	81	692
Male .....	3%	28	70	666
Educational Level				
Less than High School .....	7%	15	78	165
High School Graduate .....	4%	19	78	748
College Graduate .....	2%	27	71	441
Political Affiliation				
Republican .....	3%	24	73	474
Democrat .....	4%	18	78	513
Independent/Other .....	3%	25	72	72
None .....	5%	21	74	288
Source of Information				
Television .....	5%	18	77	684
Newspaper .....	2%	24	74	440
Radio .....	0%	37	63	57
Magazine .....	0%	16	84	31
Other .....	5%	24	72	85
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1 .....	6%	4	90	431
2-3 .....	3%	17	81	647
4-6 .....	2%	57	41	282

\* See Appendices for explanation.



## SOCIAL-POLITICAL AWARENESS: Ability to Name Governor and U.S. Senators

**Question:** What is the name of the governor of Pennsylvania? What are the names of the two U.S. Senators that represent Pennsylvania in Washington?

RESPONSES:	Casey	Heinz	Specter	Both Senators
Statewide .....	85%	50%	39%	31%
Rural/Urban*				
Rural .....	84	40	33	26
Urban .....	85	53	42	33
Region*				
Northwest .....	85	41	39	30
Southwest .....	84	60	38	33
Central .....	88	49	38	29
Northeast .....	86	43	29	25
Southeast .....	82	48	44	33
Age				
18 to 34 year olds .....	81	39	30	21
35-49 .....	84	53	44	35
50-64 .....	90	59	46	37
65 or older .....	85	56	42	36
Sex				
Female .....	83	44	32	25
Male .....	87	57	38	38
Educational Level				
Less than High School .....	77	43	27	22
High School Graduate .....	84	44	34	26
College Graduate .....	88	63	56	45
Political Affiliation				
Republican .....	87	55	47	37
Democrat .....	86	52	43	34
Independent/Other .....	86	58	43	35
None .....	78	37	23	17
Source of Information				
Television .....	81	43	33	24
Newspaper .....	90	59	48	40
Radio .....	82	52	42	36
Magazine .....	94	62	56	47
Other .....	79	50	42	30
Social-Political Awareness Score				
0-1 .....	69	4	1	1
2-3 .....	96	64	46	45
4-6 .....	100	93	88	83

\* See Appendices for explanation.

## QUOTES:

### Corporal Punishment

"Paddling in schools should only be permitted with parental approval."

"Some kids need a swatting!"

"Why stop paddling when the kids are paddling teachers?"

"Can't hurt them to be hit on the poo poo, it's well-cushioned."

### Extending the School Year

"More pay for teachers, more school days for students."

"Lengthen the school day, not the school year."

"I think we should make those little #@\*!+?!s go to school 365 days a year!"

### Denying a Drivers License to a Dropout

"A dropout needs a drivers license to get a job."

### Teachers' Right to Strike

"If baseball players can strike, so can teachers."

"No, they don't deserve what they already make."

"Require binding arbitration."

"There should be a time limit on the strikes."

"Teachers should not be allowed to strike when they're not working."

"Teachers should only be permitted to strike in the summer."

### Testing Sex Criminals for AIDS

"Shoot 'em. Don't test 'em!"

### Establishing a Legal Age for Smoking

"Impossible to enforce."

"Let smokers kill themselves."

"The legal age for smoking should be never."

"Smoking? . . . wait until 104."

### Abortion

"Abortion is a very delicate subject. I don't think the government is sincere enough to handle it."

"Informing the husband? . . . only if a couple are living together as a family."

"Informing the husband? . . . only if it's his baby."

### Fetal Protection

"It's discrimination against women!"

"A pregnant woman should not be allowed to harm her baby."

"An employer has the right to save himself from being sued."

### Reducing State Spending

"Highway maintenance? . . . four guys stand around the pothole. One guy digs, three guys lean on shovels. Get rid of three . . . We already pay too much for them to sit on their asses and watch potholes get bigger."

"Programs for the elderly? . . . No, I'm one of them!"

"The government was much simpler(cheaper) when I was young."

"Too many dirty hands in the cookie jar."

"Cut the politicians' salaries, starting with the governor and his gold-lined pockets."

### Taxes

"Don't tax paper unless it is not recyclable."

"Only people who have children in school should have to pay school taxes."

"There should be only one tax and that's a federal sales tax."

"I say soak the rich!"

"FDR said that paying taxes is a privilege. I say it's become a punishment."

"People over a certain age should not have to pay any taxes."

### Means Testing

"Who will decide who's needy?"

### Casino Gambling

"Keep it where poor folks can't be tempted."

"The lottery is bad enough."

### Social-Political Awareness

"Hold on, let me get my son."

"Senators? I haven't the slightest idea."

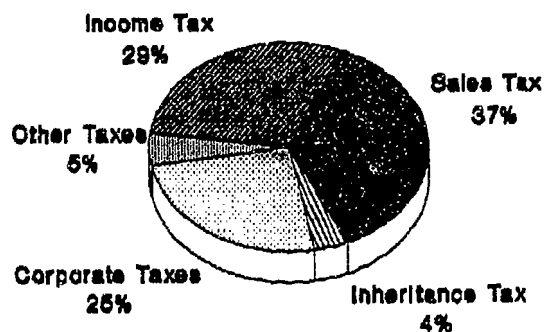
### Demographic Information

"I consider myself part of the rat race."

## APPENDIX A: Pennsylvania Tax Information

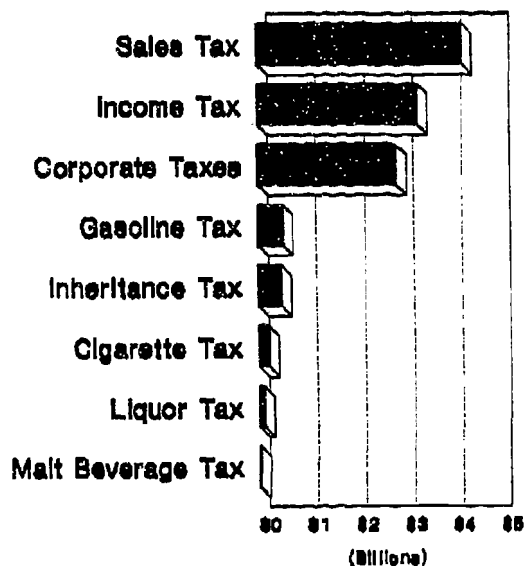
### General Fund Tax Revenue 1990

Total General Fund Taxes: \$11.4 Billion



Sources of Tax Revenue

### Revenue Raised By Taxes 1990

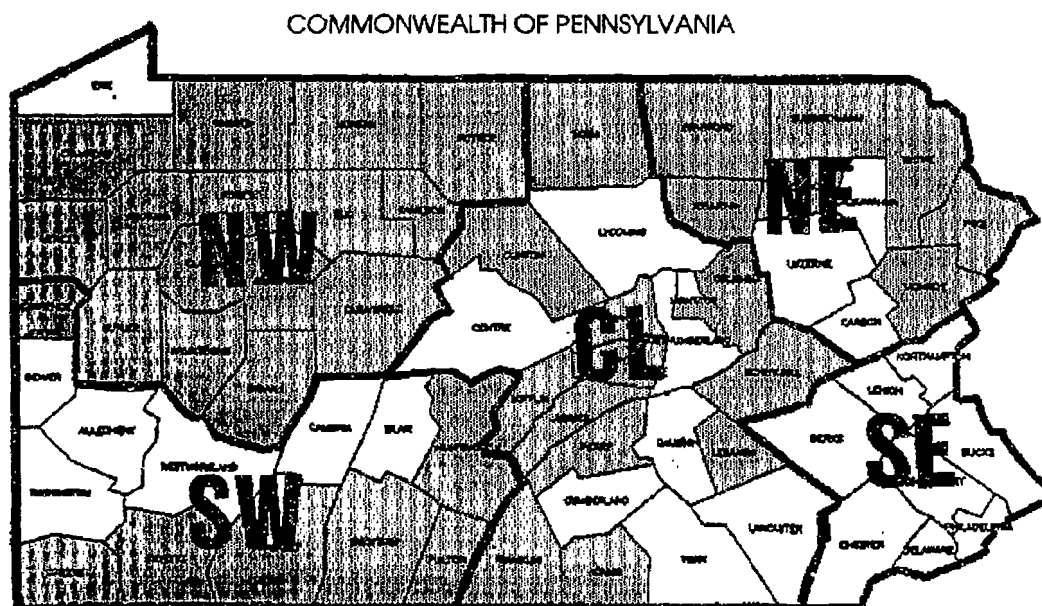


Source: Rural Services Institute, Mansfield University 1991

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## APPENDIX B: Regional and Urban-Rural Classification

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With only a few exceptions, people living in a borough or township with a total population smaller than 2,500 people are rural residents, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Based upon this definition of rural areas, the counties shown in white are considered mostly "urban counties," and the counties shown in grey are considered mostly "rural counties."

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## APPENDIX C: Social-Political Awareness Scoring

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To determine a social-political awareness score, respondents were asked six questions: (1) Just your best guess, about how many million people live in Pennsylvania? (2) What percent of the Pennsylvania population would you say is Black? (3) What percent of the Pennsylvania population would you say is 65 or older? (4) What is the name of the governor of Pennsylvania? (5) What are the names of the two United States Senators that represent Pennsylvania in Washington?

The following responses were considered "correct" answers: (1) 8 thru 16 million; (2), 6 thru 12%; (3), 10 thru 20%; (4), Casey; (5), Heinz and Specter. For the last question, respondents were given a point for each senator named. Thus, the maximum score was 6 "correct" answers.

## APPENDIX D: The Sample

The sample was provided by Survey Samp, Inc. It was a replicate sample consisting of 4350 telephone numbers randomly selected from all listed telephone numbers in Pennsylvania. Of that number, there were 1518 completed interviews.

The interviews took place between February 11 and March 5, 1991. Each interview took approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. The sample closely approximates actual demographic characteristics of Pennsylvania.

	Actual (1990)	Sample
<b>Population</b>	<b>11,881,643</b>	<b>1518</b>
<b>Sex</b>		
Male .....	47%	47%
Female .....	53	53
<b>Age</b>		
18-34 .....	36%	30%
35-49 .....	25	31
50-64 .....	19	20
65+ .....	19	18
<b>Region</b>		
NW .....	14%	10%
SW. ....	24	26
CL .....	20	21
SE. ....	39	36
NE. ....	8	7
<b>Urban-Rural</b>		
Mostly urban counties .....	79%	79%
Mostly rural counties .....	21	21
<b>Political Affiliation</b>		
Registered		
Republican .....	43%	44%
Democratic .....	52	49
Independent/Other. ....	5	6
Not registered .....	25%	22%

In theory, in 19 of 20 cases the results based upon the sample will differ by no more than three percentage points in either direction from what would be obtained if all Pennsylvania adults with listed telephone numbers were contacted. The potential sampling error for smaller subgroups is larger. For example, for either Democrats or Republicans it is plus or minus five percentage points.

# Division of Community Services And Continuing Education

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION**

(717) 662-4244 or 4849

### **Undergraduate/Graduate Courses**

- o Mansfield University/Guthrie Education Center-Sayre, PA
- o College Center of The Finger Lakes, Corning, NY
- o Towanda-Williamsport-Loyalsock-Lock Haven

### **Distance Courses**

- o Tele-Conferences
- o Travel Abroad

### **Undergraduate Special Students**

- o Academic Advising and Counseling
- o Course Selection, Registration, Evaluation of Transfer Credit
- o Diagnostic Placement Testing

## **SUMMER SCHOOL & NON-CREDIT OFFERINGS**

(717) 662-4866 or 4850

- o Undergraduate & Graduate Coursework
- o Municipal Police Officers' Training Program and In-Service Training
- o Summer Youth Camps: Gifted, Music, Computer
- o Workshops, Seminars, Travel Tours

## **GRANTS AND CONTRACTS**

(717) 662-4809

- o Grant Writing Workshops
- o Resource Library - Materials & Information
- o Assistance In Locating Funding Sources
- o Cooperative Projects With Community Agencies

## **RURAL SERVICES INSTITUTE**

(717) 662-4808

### **Small Business Assistance Center**

- o Assistance in Starting A New Business and Business Expansions

### **Applied Research Center**

- o Surveys, public opinion polls, studies, evaluations, data analysis

### **Data Center**

- o Rural Data Base - Demographic, Economic, Social data

## **ADULT BASIC EDUCATION**

(717) 662-4746

### **Pride, JTPA & ABE**

- o Basic Literacy And Basic Skills Training
- o Preparation For High School Equivalency Diploma (GED)
- o Family/Workplace Literacy Classes
- o Computer Assisted Instruction
- o Volunteer Opportunities
- o Tutor Training Workshops/State Sponsored Seminars

### **HOPE**

- o Tioga County Prison Program

### **Student Literacy Corps**

- o Literacy Corps Projects and University Credit

Copies of this survey may be purchased for \$10.00 from:  
Rural Services Institute  
Mansfield University  
209 Doane Center  
Mansfield, PA 16933  
(717) 662-4808

